

# THE ELECTRICAL WORKER

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## IBEW News

### Shaping Our Destiny

The 39th IBEW Convention convenes in St. Louis **1**

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### Please Note

Due to this month's IBEW convention, the next issue will be a combined October/November double issue. Local Lines will return in December.



## Celebrating 125 Years, IBEW Returns Home

The St. Louis Gateway Arch, lit by Local 1 members, dominates the city's skyline on the Mississippi River. Members of IBEW's flagship local have been wiring their city for over a century.

**T**he IBEW's 39th International Convention convenes this month just a mile and a half from the St. Louis boardinghouse where 10 delegates met 125 years ago to form what would become the greatest union of electrical tradesmen and tradeswomen in the world.

We return to the banks of the Mississippi River at an important juncture for the United States, for the IBEW and for the state of Missouri.

"Coming back here to St. Louis, the birthplace of our union, is a reminder of the sacrifices our brothers and sisters have made over the years fighting for better working conditions, higher wages and secure

## RENEWING OUR LEGACY

retirements," said International President Lonnie R. Stephenson. "We owe them so much, and it's a privilege to be here in this city celebrating their contributions to our way of life."

In 1890, when Henry Miller arrived in St. Louis, the booming Gateway City was a hotbed of labor activism. That year, Miller and other electricians working at the city's grand Exposition Hall formed Local 5221, affiliated with Samuel Gompers' American Federation of Labor. But Miller had bigger dreams, and just a year later, he and nine delegates from around the country came together at 2728 Franklin Ave. and drew up the constitution for what became the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

With that legacy in mind, and in the shadow of the city's famous Gateway Arch, more than 3,000 IBEW delegates, alternates and guests will gather

this month to elect leaders, debate laws and resolutions and to celebrate the Brotherhood and its origins in St. Louis.

And this year, convention delegates plan to give back to the city, holding the IBEW's inaugural Day of Service on Sept. 15. Delegates and guests will fan out across St. Louis to volunteer at homeless shelters, food banks, local parks, ballfields and more. "It's a fitting way to head into our convention," Stephenson said, "to give back to a community that has given us so much."

St. Louis Local 1 and the Electrical Workers Historical Society will also cut the ribbon on the Henry Miller Museum, the boardinghouse restored during the past year to open in time for the convention. Hundreds of IBEW members and local unions have generously donated to its preservation, and they'll soon have the opportunity to visit the place they helped make a reality.

IBEW RETURNS HOME *continued on page 2*



# Celebrating 125 Years, IBEW Returns Home

▼ Continued from page 1

The convention also comes to Missouri — always a presidential battleground state — at a moment when the country is poised to make fundamental decisions about the future. In Jefferson City last year, Gov. Jay Nixon's veto was the only thing standing between the state's working people and a disastrous right-to-work law. Since IBEW delegates last convened in 2011, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and West Virginia have passed right-to-work laws and IBEW members and working families have been forced to fight dozens of attacks on prevailing wage laws across the country.

"Between now and November, we've got the opportunity to choose leaders who will lift working people up

instead of blaming them for wanting to earn a living wage or to come together to improve their lot in life," Stephenson said. "By working together to elect allies in November, we can help ensure the legacy of our founding fathers lives on for another 125 years."

Read on for the stories of the IBEW local unions following in the footsteps of Henry Miller and our founders in the Gateway City today. ■

## Local 1: Birthplace of the Brotherhood

That St. Louis Local 1 is the flagship local of the IBEW is not lost on its 5,600 members. It's a distinction the men and women proudly carry with them as they power the city.

"It's a tremendous honor," said Local 1 Business Manager Frank D. Jacobs, a fourth generation IBEW member. "We feel a great deal of responsibility to protect and build on what we have been given."

**"We feel a great deal of responsibility to protect and build on what we have been given."**

— Frank Jacobs, Local 1 Business Manager

From the moment you land at the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, you are benefiting from the craftsmanship of Local 1 members. In fact, many of the sites that attract visitors have been built and maintained by our brothers and sisters, including the Gateway Arch, St. Louis Art Museum, Union Station, Washington University, Peabody Opera House and all of the sports venues in the St. Louis area.

"We've wired them all," said retiree Jack Jacobs in a documentary about the local. He is also the father of the business manager and son of the 11th District's first international vice president, Frank W. Jacobs.

The documentary, "We Light This City," was produced in 2012 as part of a promotional campaign and is available on the Local 1 website, [ibewlocalone.org](http://ibewlocalone.org).

From the first commercial use of electricity in the late 1800s to solar panels today, Local 1 has provided a skilled workforce. Members worked on the World's Fair in 1904 — the first time electrical lights were seen in St. Louis.

They also wired the Arch during its construction in the 1960s, and today a crew is working on a renovation of the grounds around the monument. It's a multi-year project that has crews installing lights on walking paths, working on the trams that take visitors to the top of the Arch and wiring new gift shops, restaurants and an auditorium. When it's completed in 2017, people will be able to walk from the Arch grounds into the city, all through connected walkways.

"It's a substantial renovation, and something I'm glad to be working on," said Local 1 Business Representative Tim Murray, whose father worked on the original Arch construction.

Local 1 also had the first federally registered electrical training program, established in 1941.

The post-World War II era saw a lot of growth under the administration of business manager Paul Nolte. The local's hall was built around the late 1950s, and in 1962 the leadership invited New York Local 3's Harry Van Arsdale Jr. to speak. He suggested invest-

ing in the pension benefit trust fund and health care coverage for retirees, which were instituted.

Local 1 members work in electrical and telecommunications construction as well as maintenance in industrial, commercial and residential settings. They do sign erection, manufacturing, lightning suppression and cellular communications. Large local employers include Pfizer, Monsanto, General Motors and Anheuser-Busch InBev, the maker of Budweiser beer.

Also keeping Local 1 members busy this year is the Henry Miller Museum, named after the IBEW's founder. In 2015, Local 1 purchased the house that served as the birthplace of the Brotherhood. Now operated by the Electrical Workers Historical Society, donations are being sought to help fund the effort. Local unions and individual members from nearly 40 states and several provinces have contributed more than \$2 million. A planned grand opening is set for Sept. 15.

Once completed, the museum will house memorabilia from the Brotherhood's early days and serve as a space to educate visitors on the history and present-day role of the IBEW and other unions in the fight to secure rights for working people.

Local 1's community involvement isn't limited to construction work. It has had representation in the Mis-

souri Legislature since 1944, said Local 1 Business Representative John Kahrho. In a state that is constantly fighting off right-to-work and other anti-union legislation, having union members in office is invaluable.

"The IBEW has clearly put me on this path," said House Minority Leader Jacob Hummel, an 18-year member, in the documentary. "I wanted to give something back. This is my way of being able to help those members."

Through its labor-management partnership, Local 1 also retains the services of Tim Green, a member and former state representative and senator, to lobby for and educate its membership. The local works with the area labor clubs, grassroots political organizations that conduct candidate interviews and advise their central labor councils.

Local 1 also participates in a number of charities, including the United Way, Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together, a charity that helps low-income people with home repairs. Members offer their services — skills other volunteers often don't have — to rehabilitate these homes, ensuring they are up to code.

"It's a very generous gift that Local 1 gives to the city of St. Louis," said Dave Ervin, executive director of Rebuilding Together-St. Louis, in the documentary. ■



Local 1 communication journeyman technicians Richard D. Fisher, foreground, and Michael L. Wetherell at Chaifetz Arena on the St. Louis University campus.

## Local 2: 'It all Comes Back to Us'

Henry Miller, the first president of the IBEW, was an outside lineman from St. Louis. If he were working today, he'd be a member of Local 2.

"We bring it up all the time," said Local 2 Business Manager Dave Desmond. "Our members are incredibly proud that it all comes back home to us."

Local 2 is rooted in St. Louis and its jurisdiction covers nearly the entire eastern half of the state, from the northern farmlands along the Iowa border to the Ozarks at the border with Arkansas.

**"We bring it up all the time ... Our members are incredibly proud that it all comes back home to us."**

— Local 2 Business Manager Dave Desmond

There are more than 1,800 members, and about half are construction and line maintenance workers, still doing the demanding work of building and maintaining the transmission and distribution system like their brothers and sisters before them.



Some of the founders of the IBEW were linemen from St. Louis and these members of Local 2 are continuing the tradition.

For the last five years, Local 2 has been rebuilding the underground electrical distribution system in St. Louis, raising transmission towers to meet new regulations and building an expanded grid as demand grows and new power sources come on line.

"We've been growing since I was initiated in 1985," said Assistant Business Manager David Heidbreder, who will take over as business manager from Desmond after the convention. "Work is pretty good. We have a lot of transmission work and are organizing a new municipality and stripping quite a few nonunion linemen."

Nearly 1,000 members work for telephone and cable TV companies. Local 2 represents work-

ers at more than a dozen rural electrical cooperatives, water utilities and the statewide electric utility Ameren since its purchase of longtime Local 2 signatory Missouri Power and Light. In recent decades, municipal and clerical workers have also organized with Local 2.

Local 2 is much like the IBEW that is returning home this month. Much of the work the linemen do would be familiar to any member from any era, though the tools have changed and safety is vastly improved. But as the country has changed, so has the IBEW. In another 125 years, however, when the people of St. Louis get the power they need in their lives, Local 2 will be there. ■



## Local 4 Meets Broadcast Challenges, Remains Strong

St. Louis Local 4 once drew most of its membership from people working behind the scenes at the city's television stations. Those workers remain valued members — but there are fewer of them because of automation in the video and television industry.

The broadcast local has stayed strong, however, thanks to outreach to non-traditional groups of workers, longtime Business Manager Michael J. Pendergast said.

"We try to stay very active in organizing," said Pendergast, who has served as Local 4 business manager for nearly a quarter-century. "That's one thing we've been successful with over the years, not just recently. We've been aggressive in reaching out to new groups and that's what we continue to do."

**"We try to stay very active in organizing. We've been aggressive in reaching out to new groups and that's what we continue to do."**

— St. Louis Local 4 Business Manager Michael J. Pendergast

Among the employers Local 4 has bargaining agreements with are Barlow Productions, a St. Louis-based company that produces video for business and nonprofits; Kaufmann Broadcast Services, which provides programming from both studio and from on-site events to cable news and sports networks; and Klance Staging, which provides crews for sports events being televised in other markets, such as a Cardinals-Cubs baseball game back to Chicago.

Local 4 also represents technicians and technical assistants at Fox Sports Midwest, which televises St. Louis Cardinals and St. Louis Blues games; and Missouri-based workers represented by the national Fox Sports contract.

It still represents camera operators, engineers, technicians and editors at St. Louis' NBC, ABC, CBS,

PBS and Fox affiliates, as well as news department producers and assignment editors at the CBS and Fox affiliates. Additionally, it also represents workers at KMOX, the legendary CBS Radio affiliate and long-time broadcast home of the Cardinals. Overall, it has 30 agreements with employers.

Local 4 now has 305 members, down from the nearly 400 during the early 2000s, Pendergast said. But it is in good financial shape, allowing it to provide extra benefits for members and push back against anti-working family proposals from some companies.

In 2014, Local 4 put up billboards around the St. Louis area and produced television as well as radio commercials encouraging viewers not to watch KSDK-TV, the local NBC affiliate, because then-owner Gannett was asking for another round of cuts after employees agreed to concessions during previous contract negotiations.

It paid off. It took nearly a year, but Gannett officials backed down from their most draconian proposals and the parties agreed to a deal that gave 40 Local 4 employees at the station guaranteed employment for the life of the contract.

Just as important for its members, Local 4's response to KSDK's ultimatums served to protect the interests of all Local 4 bargaining units, Pendergast said. Other employers approaching negotiations were aware of the response they will receive if they insist on unreasonable demands, he said.

Outside of negotiations, Local 4 has developed a program that supports members, such as providing them with \$200 on each of their first five days of a hospitalization, Pendergast said. It holds an annual drawing to award five \$1,000 scholarships to members or their dependents in college or a trade program.

"Over the years, we've built that treasury up to where we can do some things to support our members," he said.

Local 4 was called Local 1217 when it was chartered by the IBEW on Dec. 18, 1940. It was re-chartered Local 4 in 1959.

Pendergast said it has benefited from being in the same city as St. Louis Local 1, the legendary construction local. The IBEW has a high level of respect in the area because of Local 1, and that benefits every other local, no matter the sector.

"I think we all ride their coattails," he said.

"They're proactive in the community. People recognize that brand and we all benefit from that. When Local 1 supports somebody, we feel like we're a part of that."

Pendergast said he grew up around family members in the stagehands and pipefitters union. They

had a philosophy of supporting their members from "your birth to your death," he said. He's tried to use the same philosophy in his stewardship of Local 4.

"Unions are there to support working families," he said. ■

## St. Louis Utility Locals Adapt to Change, Remain Voice for Working Families

It's only appropriate that the lineman members in St. Louis are making a meaningful contribution to the new museum dedicated to its line-worker founders.

The boardinghouse where 10 linemen met to form what would become the IBEW will be dedicated in September. And the St. Louis utility members of Local 1439 are planting the poles in the adjacent Founders' Park and installing the transformers.



Jeremy Pour, St. Louis Local 1439 vice president, gets a pole ready for installation at Founders' Park.

"I'm very proud and fortunate that I'm a business manager when this is happening," said Business Manager Michael D. Walter, who is also a member of the International Executive Council.

Local 1439 was founded in 1945. So was St. Louis Local 1455, which represents office and technical employees at some of the same companies that employ Local 1439's linemen, building service, meter department, meter reading, overhead, underground, stores, substations, transmission, distribution, gas, trouble and installation, utility shop and salvage and motor transportation employees.

Local 1455 members have adapted well to the automation that eliminated some positions, but made many of the remaining ones more demanding, Business Manager Michael A. Datillo said.

"You have to accept change," said Datillo, who has served as business manager since 1983. "You have to accept technology. You have to have people that have a commitment to quality in what they do."

"The majority of our people have an associate degree, at a minimum. We have accountants who are CPAs. Some of our members have degrees in engineering. We have a highly educated workforce."

For decades, Local 1439 represented workers at Union Electric, the dominant electric utility company in the St. Louis area. It had about 1,600 members in the early 1990s.

But like many utility locals, it has seen its membership fall due to consolidation in the industry and increased automation on the job. It has about 735 members today, Walter said. The majority of Local 1439's members work for Ameren Missouri, but the local also has agreements with Liberty Utilities in Missouri, Alliant Energy in Iowa and Entergy in Arkansas.

Membership started to tail off by the middle of the 1990s following utility deregulation and then increased after Union Electric merged with Central Illinois Public Service Company in 1997 to form Ameren. The industry has changed rapidly since then, but Walter said those changes will be incremental compared to what's ahead.

Consolidation is expected to increase as companies look for greater access to alternative sources of energy, due in part to government mandates and increasing consumer demand. Industry experts also have cited cybersecurity concerns as driving recent mergers, noting that a larger corporation has resources to combat a cyberattack.

"I think this is a very pivotal time for us," Walter said. "Going forward in three, five or 10 years, I'm not sure what we're going to look like. ...It's really hard to determine where we're going to end up because, quite honestly, the utilities aren't sure where they're going to end up."

One of Local 1439's success stories in recent years came in Potosi, Mo., a town with a population of slightly less than 3,000 people located about 90 miles southwest of St. Louis. It organized the city workers at their request, but the story didn't end there. Local 1439 has become a visible part of the community, hosting an annual golf tournament to raise money for a Potosi senior citizens center. Local 1439 members also regularly volunteer at the center.

**"I am very proud and fortunate that I'm a business manager when this is happening."**

— Local 1439 Business Manager Michael D. Walter, who is also a member of the International Executive Council.

Walter said city leaders initially weren't too happy to see the IBEW, but that attitude has been reversed. Local 1439 members built goodwill with their work in the community and also saved the city money with the IBEW medical plan.

"From the time we got down there and started doing things in that community, we've totally changed things," Walter said.

IBEW RETURNS HOME *continued on page 4*



St. Louis Local 4 Business Manager Michael J. Pendergast, left, and steward Rob Glessner, right, discuss an upcoming show of "This Week in Missouri Politics" with host Scott Faughn. Local 4 members are in charge of the show's production.

## Celebrating 125 Years, IBEW Returns Home

▼ Continued from page 3

It's also stayed active in its hometown. Local 1439 has hosted a golf tournament for more than 20 years that has raised more than \$100,000 for the St. Louis chapter of the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge, which provides housing for families staying in St. Louis while a loved one is undergoing treatment.

It also has kept a strong presence in Jefferson City, the state capital. Walter says Local 1439 has helped Missouri resist a right-to-work law and the repeal of prevailing wage laws despite far-right groups' attempts to do so. He said its work in Jefferson City helped 1439's relationship with Ameren, too. Business representative Mark Staffne has organized 1439's recent legislative efforts, Walter said.

Today, Local 1455 represents workers in about 120 job classifications, ranging from mail clerks and customer service agents to information technology programmers and operators to accountants.

"When you have a presence in your state capital, your utility must recognize that fact," Walter said. "They have to work with you. Every time the utility goes to the [Missouri Public Service Commission], we always intervene. Whether we take a position or not, we always have a seat at the table."

Walter has been business manager since 2007 and has served on the IEC since being appointed by then-President Edwin D. Hill in 2011.

"It's a tremendous honor and I take it very seriously," he said. "It's a balancing act when you're on the IEC because you're also a business manager and you have to serve your members. But I've never really

had any complaints and I get a lot of support."

Local 1455 represents the office personnel and white collar jobs in both Missouri and Illinois at Ameren, a subsidiary of Ameren UE. It also represents those same employees at Alliant Energy in Iowa. It now has 800 members, Datillo said. Its high water mark came in 1986, when it had 1,500. Like 1439, it has had to deal with deregulation and mergers in the industry.

"A lot of our work hasn't been eliminated," Datillo said. "We're just using a lot of new equipment to do it. That takes a highly educated worker."

Local 1455 traces its roots to 1913 and the beginning of the Employee Mutual Benefit Association, which represented Union Electric workers. The EMBA led labor actions that culminated in an eight-hour work day, a five-day work week and overtime pay. It also helped set up health insurance and pension plans.

But it lost its right to represent Union Electric workers in 1941 after the National Labor Relations Board ruled it had violated sections of the National Labor Relations Act, according to the Local 1455 website. Union Electric workers were represented by the Tri-State Utility Electrical Workers Union for the next five years before voting for IBEW representation in 1946. Local 1455 was chartered on May 24 of that year.

Today, Local 1455 represents workers in about 120 job classifications, ranging from mail clerks and customer service agents to information technology programmers and operators to accountants.

"Most of these people I represent I've known and worked with," Datillo said. "To be a good business manager, you've got to be a good listener. Sometimes, people just want to be heard. But when I lead a negotiating committee, I don't want just a bunch of bobble heads nodding in agreement. If you disagree, tell me. I might change my mind."

Datillo estimates he's been a co-chairman of Union Electric's and later Ameren's United Way campaign in the St. Louis area 10 times. He considers it important because he knows of some Local 1439 members who have used United Way services over the years. Members also take part in a program that repairs used bikes for children in low-income areas.

Like Walter, Datillo said the changing nature of the electrical industry guarantees that many challenges lie ahead for him and 1455 members. But he's confident they're in a position to handle them.

"We're holding our own," he said. ■



## What's at Stake in the Missouri Governor's Race? Everything.

No statewide political contest this November has clearer stakes for working families than the Missouri governor's race.

"If the Republicans win," Kansas City Local 124 President Rudy Chavez said, "Missouri will have right-to-work before we swear in our next president."

Unlike some other Midwestern states, Missouri has successfully fought off furious right-to-work attempts even with overwhelming GOP majorities in both the state House and Senate. That's because of the veto pen of Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon and a handful of Republicans willing to cross party lines to support pro-family legislation.

It takes a two-thirds majority to override a governor's veto, something right-to-work advocates have failed to do. They also have failed to repeal Missouri's prevailing wage laws or pass paycheck deception legislation despite repeated attempts.

But state law prevents Nixon from running for a third term. A GOP replacement virtually would ensure right-to-work passage. That's why the IBEW and other unions are working hard to elect Democrat Chris Koster, the state's attorney general, who has come out strongly against right-to-work.

"We've definitely been mobilizing for him for quite a while," said St. Louis Local 1 member and Missouri AFL-CIO Secretary/Treasurer Jacob Hummel, who also is a member of the Missouri House of Representatives. "I think everyone realizes the gravity of the situation. If we don't elect him, we have right-to-work and paycheck deception and the repeal of prevailing wage in the first month of the legislative session [in January]."

"If we don't elect him, we're in trouble."

Added Chavez, who also serves as the IBEW's Missouri political director: "This governor's race is the hottest in the country."

**"If the Republicans win, Missouri will have right-to-work before we swear in our next president."**

— Rudy Chavez, Kansas City Local 124 president



IBEW members are working to support Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster for governor.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka spent three days in St. Louis in July. Much of his time was spent campaigning for Koster and he called Missouri "ground zero" for anti-worker attacks, according to the St. Louis Labor Tribune.

"The corporate right wing has thrown everything but the kitchen sink at us here in Missouri. ... We have defeated every single piece of bad legislation. It is absolutely critical that we build on these successes in 2016," Trumka said.

Trumka told KWMU radio, St. Louis' NPR affiliate, the election will determine if Missouri "will continue to veer toward the rich and those rich donors who want to make more at the expense of working people, or whether working people will start to write the rules so that we can create a shared prosperity economy that benefits everyone."

Koster is a strong candidate. He has consistently spoken out against legislation that harms working families and received nearly 56 percent of the vote in his last election as attorney general in 2012. In the November general election, he'll face Republican nominee Eric Greitens, who has never held elective office and is in favor of a right-to-work law.

Koster has already raised between \$10 million and \$11 million, Hummel said. Despite Republican dominance in the Legislature, Missouri voters have shown an independent streak. Democrats hold six of the eight offices elected statewide.

But Greitens is expected to be well funded. Missouri is one of 12 states that does not limit the amount individuals can donate to a candidate. The Republican nominee likely will get substantial donations from wealthy individuals that have pushed hard for right-to-work legislation in the past.

"It's going to be an extraordinarily expensive race, the most expensive in our history," Hummel said. "With unlimited donations, it's going to be tough for us to keep up."

That's where working people can make a difference, Hummel said.

"The IBEW has one of the largest union voting blocks in the state," he said. "It could not be more important for our members to knock on doors and make those phone calls."

"I know that may not be what you want to do when you get off the job and it's 110 degrees and you're tired. It's difficult. But it's important to remember that if we don't do those things, and don't remember the things we fought for, we're going to be in trouble."

Hummel noted the Missouri AFL-CIO is supporting some Republicans in the state legislature who have voted against right-to-work laws and other legislation that harms working families.

"It's important that our membership knows that voting for the right candidate is not the same thing as voting for one [particular] party," he said.

Right-to-work laws allow employees to opt out of paying membership dues, even when they receive the benefits of a union contract. Prevailing wage laws require contractors doing business with governmental bodies to pay their workers at pre-determined levels. Paycheck deception is called paycheck protection by its supporters and requires members of unions to state in writing each year they want union dues taken out of their paychecks. ■



St. Louis Local 1455 members gather before a Labor Day parade in Jefferson City, Mo.

# NORTH OF 49°

## Promoting Safety and Transparency in the Workplace

Every Canadian should know how safe their workplace is. Now there's a bill to help them do it.

MP Sheri Benson has introduced a private member's bill that would require employers to record information about all accidents, occupational disease and other hazardous occurrences to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, says the NDP member's website. The registry would be maintained by the minister and available to the public.

"This change will have a positive impact on workers — past, present and future — by allowing them access to pertinent information on the various hazards they could be exposed to at work," said First District International Vice President William Daniels following the June bill introduction. "This is something every worker deserves to know."

The bill, C-292, is intended to provide transparency and promote workplace safety. Benson says the inspiration came from a federal food plant inspector who contracted mesothelioma from contact with asbestos while on the job. Howard Willems, who passed away in 2012, was an inspector for 30 years and fought for a similar registry in his province of Saskatchewan, reported the CBC. Benson represents Saskatoon West in the southern part of the province.

"I'm standing on the shoulders of others who have done a lot of work," Benson said.

The legislation is expected to have its second reading sometime in 2017, Benson said. If it passes a second reading, experts may be invited to speak on the bill at the committee stage, and other legislators may comment and voice their support. Once the committee has completed its study, the bill will be reported back to the House for a third and final reading. Benson says it's possible the bill could become law in 2018.

Thus far, there is no opposition, said First District Political Action and Media Strategist Matt Wayland.

There is no enforcement mechanism with the bill, nor does it call for a ban on anything, though Benson says she hopes that eventually there will be a ban on asbestos. It's something Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has expressed interest in as well, reported the CBC.

"This is a solid first step in a longer process of getting asbestos out of the workplace," Benson said. "It's something people have been asking for."

The bill has the support of Canada's Building Trades Unions.

"This is a long time coming and will create accountable partnerships in the workplace," said Bob Blakely, with

Canada's Building Trades Unions, in a press release.

"Everyone deserves to know what they're walking into," Wayland said. "This bill will help our members come home safe and in good health at the end of the day." ■

*A new bill calls for a national registry to promote safety and transparency in the workplace.*

*Un nouveau projet de loi prévoit un registre national en vue de promouvoir la sécurité et d'assurer la transparence sur le lieu de travail.*



## AU NORD DU 49° PARALLÈLE

### Promouvoir la sécurité et la transparence sur le lieu de travail

Tout Canadien devrait être informé sur la santé et la sécurité dans leur milieu de travail. Un projet de loi est maintenant en cours pour les aider à le faire.

La députée Sheri Benson a présenté un projet de loi émanant des députés qui exigerait aux employeurs d'enregistrer toutes informations relatives à tous les accidents, la maladie professionnelle et aux incidents dangereux au ministre de l'Emploi, au ministre du Développement et de la main-d'œuvre, mentionne le site web de la membre du NPD. Le registre sera maintenu par le ministre et sera disponible au public.

« Ce changement aura des répercussions bénéfiques sur les travailleurs du passé, du présent et du futur, en leur permettant d'avoir accès à des informations pertinentes sur les différents dangers auxquels ils seront exposés dans leur lieu de travail », dit le vice-président William Daniels du Premier District. « C'est quelque chose que les travailleurs méritent de savoir ».

L'intention du projet de loi C-292 est d'assurer la transparence et de promouvoir

un environnement de travail sécuritaire. Benson dit l'inspiration est venue d'un inspecteur fédéral d'usines alimentaires qui a été atteint par le mésothéliome une fois exposé à l'amiante sur le lieu de travail.

Howard Willems était un inspecteur depuis 30 ans et est décédé en 2012. Il s'est battu pour un registre similaire dans la province de Saskatchewan, a indiqué Radio-Canada. Benson représente l'ouest de Saskatoon au sud de la province.

« Je me tiens sur les épaules des autres qui ont fait énormément de travail », dit Benson.

Cette législation devrait passer en seconde lecture en 2017, dit Benson. Si elle est adoptée en deuxième lecture, les experts peuvent être invités à prendre la parole sur le projet de loi devant le comité, et d'autres législateurs peuvent commenter et exprimer leur appui. Une fois que le comité aura terminé son étude, le projet de loi fera l'objet d'une troisième lecture par la Chambre. Benson mentionne que le projet de loi devrait acquiescer sa force en 2018.

Jusqu'à présent, il n'y a pas d'oppo-

sition, mentionne Matt Wayland de l'action politique/stratège en média du Premier District.

Il n'y a aucun mécanisme d'application avec le projet de loi, ni d'exiger une interdiction de quoi que ce soit, bien que Benson souhaite que l'amiante soit finalement interdit. Le premier ministre Justin Trudeau a déjà exprimé son avis à ce sujet rapporte Radio-Canada.

« Cette mesure législative marque un bon premier pas d'un processus pour faire sortir l'amiante de l'environnement de travail », a déclaré Benson. « C'est une chose que les gens ont demandée ».

Le syndicat des métiers de la construction ont manifesté leur appui sur ce projet de loi.

« Cette loi s'impose depuis longtemps et créera des partenariats responsables », dit Bob Blakely du syndicat des métiers de la construction dans un communiqué de presse.

« Chaque personne mérite de savoir dans quoi ils se lancent », dit Wayland. « Ce projet de loi va aider nos membres à rentrer à la maison sains et saufs et en bonne santé à la fin de la journée ». ■

## CIRCUITS

### 'Unescorted Access' Changes Threaten to Leave Nuclear Workers at Risk

Nuclear plant owners want the ability to strip workers of their security clearance without arbitration, but IBEW leaders are working to stop the effort before it becomes law.

On June 6, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission voted 3-1 to move forward an industry recommendation to eliminate arbitration in cases where employers revoked so-called "unescorted access authorization," which employees must have in order to work in a nuclear plant.

And while the vote was simply a recommendation to begin the rulemaking process, it does mean that the IBEW and nuclear industry workers are readying for their second fight on the matter in three years.

"This is really a question of whether or not an employer can unilaterally fire a union-represented employee without cause," said IBEW Utility Department Director Jim Hunter. "If this NRC rule goes through, a plant owner or manager who doesn't like the way an employee is looking at him could not only fire that person, but they can effectively make sure they never work in the nuclear industry again."

Under current rules, when an employee has his or her access revoked by a nuclear licensee, that person turns to the union for assistance. If the union files a grievance that goes unresolved, the parties end up in arbitration run by a neutral third-party.

The nuclear industry argued in its petition that if licensees are ultimately responsible for safety at their plants, then they need wide-ranging authority to control access, even if it means firing an employee with no appeals process in place. But courts have repeatedly rejected that reasoning, arguing that reasonable arbitration is a simple matter of fairness that has no negative impact on security.

Members of Congress, too, are siding with workers. In May, after a concerted effort by the IBEW utility and political departments, 30 U.S. senators and 133 members of the House of Representatives signed letters to NRC Chairman Stephen G. Burns urging him to reject the NRC's staff petition that recommended the industry-backed changes.

The effort, led by Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden and Pennsylvania Rep. Robert Brady, failed to stop the process at its first hurdle, but it did seem to have some effect on the chairman's thinking. In his statement accompanying the vote, Burns wrote, "My approval of rulemaking initiation does not come without reservations. I have yet to be convinced on the merits that a change to our regulations is warranted."

Burns' statement gives hope that he may eventually side with workers on the issue, but it does move forward a process that could ultimately rule in favor of plant

CIRCUITS continued on page 6

## CIRCUITS *Continued from page 5*

owners. That should worry all nuclear industry employees, said International Representative Anna Jerry.

Commissioner Jeff Baran was the only member of the NRC to side unequivocally with workers, arguing in the statement accompanying his vote that, when it wrote the rule in 1991, the commission expressly welcomed third-party review of unescorted access decisions, and that attempts to upend the process now were unnecessary. "It is not appropriate for the NRC to interfere with the collective bargaining process by re-writing the agreements reached by licensees and unions," he wrote.

Nevertheless, over the next 18-24 months, NRC staff are expected to move forward with the rulemaking process before opening it up to a public comment period, much like they did when this issue came up in 2013. During the last push, every IBEW local with members employed at nuclear facilities wrote to the NRC, and Jerry expects that the same sort of effort will be undertaken this time around.

Already, several dozen locals have voiced their disapproval directly to Burns, and those letters, along with the ones from Congress, are believed to have impacted his thinking. Notably, both Burns and Commissioner Kristine Svinicki requested that NRC staff immediately reach out to the IBEW and other affected labor organizations for input rather than waiting for the public comment period.

"It's nice to hear that we may get to have some conversations with NRC staff as this process moves forward," Jerry said, "but we can't let our guard down on this for a second. The changes the nuclear industry is talking about affect people's lives and can end their careers, not to mention the fact that a rule change would completely undermine the collective bargaining process. As far as we're concerned, the system is working right now,

and we're going to fight as hard as we have to to protect our members." ■

### This Vermont Local is the First in the State to Install Tesla's Home Battery

Tesla doesn't just make electric cars. It also makes batteries, the kind you can use to power your home. And if you live in Vermont, you'll need a member of Montpelier, Vt., Local 300 to install it for you.

"It's an exciting opportunity and I'm glad to be a part of it," said Scott Millette, a journeyman wireman with Peck Electric, a contractor with Green Mountain Power and IBEW signatory. GMP is the area utility that employs Local 300 members and contracted with Peck for the battery installation.

Millette was one of three who were trained in a "train the trainer" course in January at Tesla's Fremont, California, site on the Powerwall, a lithium ion home battery that can serve as a backup electricity source, something that appeals to Vermonters all too familiar with winter storms and power outages. It can also use electricity generated from solar panels. What's more, the utility company can tap into this energy source, helping to meet demand during peak hours.

"You can charge it during the middle of the night and dispatch it when prices are the highest and when the grid system needs energy the most. It truly is a revolutionary step forward in terms of how we think about energy delivery," said Green Mountain Power CEO Mary Powell in an interview with WCAX, a local news outlet.

GMP is the first utility in the country offering the battery, according to its press release, and Local 300 members are the only people in New England doing this type

of work, said Jeffrey Wimette, Local 300 business manager. And business is booming. About 20 have been installed so far, but the waiting list is 500 customers long.

"Everybody wants them," Wimette said. "They can't make them fast enough."

For those outside of Vermont, the batteries can be purchased, but installation is typically handled by third parties, like Solar City.

There have been off-grid battery backups for years, but those lead-acid versions take up a lot of space and require a lot of maintenance. And they're not very environmentally friendly. With Tesla, you just install it and it's good for 10 years, practically maintenance-free. And when the battery is done, Tesla recycles it, Millette said.

The installation takes about two days and involves programming specific to the Powerwall, Millette said. With the programming, customers have options, called power profiles, for how they will use their battery, with a solar array or without for example, and when they will essentially share it with GMP.

"It's a new technology with a lot of potential," Wimette said.

The Powerwalls work with an inverter that converts direct current electricity into an alternating current that is used by a customer's lights, appliances and devices, according to Tesla. The batteries can be charged by solar panels or by the utility, usually at night or during a similar off-peak time. Customers can also use a web-



Montpelier, Vt., Local 300 members like Jazmine Thompson are training in the latest battery technology from Tesla.

site portal to see how much energy they're using and how their battery is performing, Millette said.

The 6.4 kilowatt batteries, which are about the size of a car-top carrier, cost \$6,500 and have about four to six hours of storage capability, depending on how it's used. Next generation versions are expected to be higher kilowatt, with more storage, Millette said.

As with all new technology, there are some bugs to work out, but Millette says most of the customers are pleased.

"We're addressing the problems as they come up, and I'm confident we'll have even more happy customers in the future," Millette said. ■

### RENEW Opening Opportunities in New Places

David Hoque works to convince businesses throughout the South to partner with the IBEW. It isn't easy, even with the high quality of work performed by IBEW members, due to decades-old right-to-work laws and a hostility shown by many people toward organized labor.

But RENEW gives him another valuable tool, said Hoque, an international representative for business development in the Tenth District, which includes Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina and South Carolina. Many companies have invested in training their younger workers and helping them advance into leadership positions. They're impressed when they see the IBEW doing the same.

"I see the value in telling our potential customers, our future and current customers, that we are engaging our rank-and-file members," Hoque said. "We're focusing on our millennial generation."

That's where Matt McCoy comes in. McCoy is an assistant business manager of Chattanooga, Tenn., Local 175 and RENEW coordinator for the Tenth District. Local 175 is the first Tenth District local to receive a RENEW charter.

McCoy is working closely with business managers to spread RENEW throughout the Tenth District. He's also working

with Hoque to let businesses know the IBEW is committed over the long term to RENEW, an initiative to mobilize members 35 years and younger and provide leadership training to them.

"It's not just an immediate fix," he said. "We're going to be here. Whatever promises we make, we're going to keep them for the long haul."

Carolyn Williams, director of the Civic and Community Engagement Department, said younger members are more likely to listen to a peer like McCoy than older members. Leaders like him also make them more likely to lead in important activities, like organizing campaigns.

"Young workers bring a renewed energy and new ideas that can help us in solving the issues labor unions face in an ever-changing landscape," Williams said. "Education coupled with the enthusiasm young workers bring to the union can be a boost to organizing campaigns, whether internal or external, and is crucial to maintaining the IBEW's status in the labor movement."

Like the Code of Excellence, RENEW is another step the IBEW has taken in recent years to show businesses its members are committed to doing the highest quality work, Hoque said.

"When you're out talking to potential customers, who often are Fortune 500 companies or the major employer in the communities they serve, you try to show what the IBEW can bring to the table," Hoque said.

"A big part of our conversation is that unions are changing," he added. "We're trying to engage management."

International Representative Rachel Bryan said what Hoque and McCoy are doing is a good example of how RENEW touches all of the IBEW, not just younger members.

"We have to work together in an inter-generational partnership," said Bryan, who oversees the RENEW program. "We need each other, the mature member with institutional knowledge and experience and the younger worker who is tech savvy, energetic and pragmatic."

For McCoy, a challenge is empowering young IBEW members in the Tenth District to realize their importance.

"They think they're just starting a new job," said McCoy, 33, a journeyman lineman. "It's exciting teaching these younger members and getting them to realize they are part of something bigger."

He points out that Henry Miller was just 33 when he founded the IBEW. Young workers have played a role ever since.

"Anytime we bring in new members and swear them in, one of the first things I like to tell them is I have 12 years in the IBEW, but right now, you're just as much of a member as I am," McCoy said. ■



The cooling towers of Tennessee's Watts Bar nuclear plant could be off limits to out-of-favor workers if the nuclear industry wins the right to restrict access.

Photo used under a Creative Commons license from Flickr user Tennessee Valley Authority.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers  
**RENEW**  
 Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers

# TRANSITIONS

## DECEASED

### Harold "Bill" Crews



We regret to report that former Fourth District International Representative Harold W. "Bill" Crews passed away on May 9 in St. Albans, W.Va.

He was 87.

Brother Crews was initiated into Cleveland Local 39 in 1950 and later became a member of Huntington, W.Va., Local 317. He served the local in several capacities, including on negotiating committees and as apprenticeship director, vice president, assistant business manager and a member of the executive and examining boards. He was brought on as a Fourth District international representative in 1972. In that capacity, Crews aided locals in the district with negotiations, arbitrations and grievances before retiring in 1988.

He was a member of the West Virginia Electrical Workers Association, Huntington Building Trades, Tri-State Building Trades, Huntington Central Labor Union, Democrat Club and American Legion. A native of Beckley, W.Va., he lived in the Mountain State following his retirement.

Brother Crews is survived by his wife Wanda and daughters Susan Groscup and Katherine Middleton Gore; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the entire IBEW membership and staff, the officers extend our heartfelt condolences to Brother Crews' family and friends. ■

## DECEASED

### Tommy Maynard



The IBEW regrets to report that Tommy G. Maynard, former Fourth District International Representative, died on July 24. He was 70.

Born in Norfolk, Va., Brother Maynard was initiated into Norfolk Local 734. He worked as a lineman on military bases in Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. He served his local in many roles, including as business manager, vice president and president. He also served on the executive and examining boards and on the welfare and organizing committees. Prior to his initiation, Maynard served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1961-1965.

"He was union 100 percent," said Local 734 Vice President Wilson Gilbert. "He was one of us."

In 1986, Maynard was appointed international representative for the Fourth District. He serviced manufacturing, utility, communications and government locals in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. His specialty was arbitrations.

"He always kept a close eye on us when he was a representative," Gilbert said.

"He never forgot where he came from."

"He was a great guy," said Jay Edwards, a Local 734 steward when Maynard was president. "People always came first."

Brother Maynard spent a number of nights and weekends with Edwards and another member, Lewis Whitehead, building Local 734's office, Edwards said. The building was a grocery store and they renovated it for use as a union building used by the area CLC, metal trades, Painters, Insulators and more.

"He did it all on his own time," Edwards said. "He knew we needed a place to call home."

Maynard retired in 2005. He enjoyed fishing, camping and hunting, and was a member of the Masonic Lodge and Shrine Temple.

Brother Maynard is survived by his wife of 53 years, Lynn; children Lisa Morris, who was also a member of Local 734, Tina Raymond and Brian Maynard; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and three siblings.

On behalf of the entire IBEW membership and staff, the officers send our condolences to Brother Maynard's family and friends. ■

## DECEASED

### Robert D. Myers



The IBEW is saddened to announce the death of retired Fifth District International Representative Robert D. Myers. He was 84.

Myers was born in South Bend, Ind., the seventh of 12 siblings. After high school Myers earned a journeyman tool and die maker's certificate at the Studebaker plant in Indiana before serving in the Air Force from 1950 to 1954. Myers met his wife, A. Charlene Lark Myers, on a blind date at Barksdale Airforce Base in northwest Louisiana. They were married for 63 years.

Brother Myers got a job at the Western Electric payphone factory in Shreveport and led an organizing campaign that successfully brought in the IBEW. Shreveport Local 2188 was formed in 1967 and Myers was elected president, a position he would hold for 18 years. At its height, Local 2188 had more than 7,000 members.

Myers was chosen to head the Western Electric System Council EM-3 in 1983, at one time the largest system council in the IBEW with close to 100,000 members.

"He was negotiating national contracts and he was good at it," said Fifth District International Vice President Joe Davis, who met Myers in the late '70s. "He was dedicated, believed in the union and he knew what he was doing."

Davis said Myers built a reputation as an outspoken and knowledgeable advocate for his members.

"And he was a nice guy and a good family man too," Davis said.

Brother Myers joined the Fifth Dis-

trict staff in 1988 and served as an international representative until his retirement in 1999.

He helped Shreveport Local 194 organize Valley Electric Membership Cooperative in 1995. He was a subscriber to the co-op and helped organize his own utility.

"It was the largest electric co-op in the area that was not organized, and he was a meter holder, so it made sense to have him do the organizing," said Fifth District International Representative Glenn Brannan, who was business manager of Local 194 at the time. "We won the election in a couple or three months, and it was a good shot in the arm for us."

The Western Electric factory fared particularly poorly as American manufacturing declined. The No. 1 product made at the plant was pay phones, which were rapidly disappearing at the end of the century. Local 2188 was made defunct in 2002.

Myers retired to his farm in Frierson, raising cattle, growing peaches and strawberries with his son John.

Brother Myers is survived by his wife, Charlene, siblings Jerry and Eileen, his sons John and Paul and five grandchildren.

To his family and friends, the IBEW extends sincere sympathy. ■

## RETIRED

### George Crawford



Seventh District International Representative George Crawford retired on July 1 after serving the IBEW for 46 years.

The Southeast Texas native was initiated in 1970 into Beaumont, Texas, Local 2286, where he'd gone to work in 1968 as a lineman for Gulf States Utility Co., now Entergy. After 11 years with the utility, including three while serving as president of the local, Crawford was appointed business manager in 1979. A year later, he was elected to the post, which he held for the better part of the next 23 years.

During his time as business manager, Crawford began an important exchange program with the Electrical Trades Union of Australia, establishing a relationship that would grow into his job with the Seventh District.

"That program is one of the highlights of my working life," Crawford said of the swap that sends up to four IBEW electricians to Australia and a similar cast of ETU members to the Seventh District in alternating years. "We started this 20 years ago in 1996 as a way to trade best practices and training methods," Crawford said. "At the time, several of our utility companies had started buying up Australian companies to experiment with deregulation."

At first, the program was run through the Texas Association of Electrical Workers, Local 2286 and Dallas Local 69, but when Jon Gardner became Seventh District vice president in 2002, he helped to expand it throughout the district, where today it

draws participants from Arizona, New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

In late July, the ETU welcomed Brother Crawford and his wife, Linda, to their annual officers' meeting in Sydney, where they honored him for his decades of work strengthening the relationship between the two unions.

As an international representative in the Seventh District, Crawford spent the last 14 years negotiating contracts and primarily servicing utility industry locals.

"George has always been a relationship guy," said fellow Seventh District International Representative Gary Buresh. "That's how he approached any negotiation, by focusing on the problem, not the person. He always said, 'You can't get anything done without talking.'"

"I always thought the best approach to working with a company was to make sure I established the best possible labor-management relationship right from the start," Crawford said. "If you have a poor relationship, your outcomes are a lot more likely to be poor, whether it's a contract or a grievance or anything else."

Those were skills he says he learned from Brother Gardner, who was his local's service representative when he became business manager and who would later help bring Crawford to the international staff in 2002. "Jon was a guy I looked up to my whole career, and I was lucky to have his guidance for so many years."

Now back home in Beaumont, Crawford says he plans to "dust off my golf clubs, do some traveling," and spend more time with his two grandchildren, who live nearby. "This union's given a lot to me, and I'm grateful to it," he said.

The officers, staff and membership of the IBEW wish Brother Crawford the very best in his retirement. ■

## RETIRED

### Jeffrey Radjewski



Sixth District Organizing Coordinator Jeffrey Radjewski capped a 42-year career with the IBEW when he retired on June 1.

Born and raised in Detroit, Brother Radjewski began his apprenticeship in 1974 and was initiated into Detroit Local 58 as a journeyman inside wireman in 1978. He served in a variety of leadership roles before being elected business manager in 1997.

In 2005, he was named the Sixth District organizing coordinator — a position that Radjewski said he turned down once before because he enjoyed being a business manager. But when then-International President Edwin D. Hill asked him

a second time, he figured he better take it — and looking back, he's glad he did.

"It was an adjustment for me, but when I went to work for the International Office, it was like getting a 20,000-foot view of the Brotherhood," Radjewski said. "It gives you a whole new perspective."

Brother Radjewski worked with 54 locals in five states in his role as an organizing coordinator.

"You get a real feel for the really bright, innovative people and the wealth of experience and knowledge we have," he said. "You sort of know that from meeting other business managers at events, but it was just refreshing to see the talent we have at the IBEW and it's all home grown. It all rose to the top and that's what is amazing to me."

Radjewski said he had many career highlights, but one that stuck out was a multi-local organizing campaign for Sears service technicians in 2009 he helped coordinate in Joliet, Ill. Radjewski said he thought it was a longshot the campaign would succeed and even counseled a young organizer at Local 176 to use it as a learning experience.

Instead, those workers voted for IBEW representation.

"When you get that close to people on a personal level and you prevail, it's just so emotional," he said. "These were grown men and women of all races. When we won that election, we were all choked up."

Director of Construction Organizing Virgil Hamilton said that kind of work was typical of Radjewski.

"Jeff was a great asset to the Membership Development Department," Hamilton said. "He provided outstanding leadership for organizing in the Sixth District. Jeff has a great talent for guiding locals to achieve organizing success. We'll miss him greatly, but wish him well in his deserved retirement."

Radjewski, 62, said he and his wife Melanie want to travel and do some other things they've put off, including spending more time with two grandchildren. They will keep their home in Washington, Mich., but plan to spend January and February at warm-weather locations throughout the United States.

The couple recently celebrated their 40th anniversary. Son Nick is a Local 58 member and works as a maintenance electrician at Comerica Park, home of the Detroit Tigers. Daughter Katie works for Beaumont Hospital in suburban Detroit and daughter Kari works in communications for the University of Detroit Mercy.

Radjewski also has volunteered to help with Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton in Michigan in the weeks leading up to November's general election.

The IBEW officers, members and staff thank Brother Radjewski for his years of service and wish him a long and fulfilling retirement. ■

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# LOCAL LINES

## Henry Miller Museum — Upcoming Events

L.U. 1 (as,c,ees,ei,em,es,et,fm,i,mt,rts,s,se,spa,st&ws), ST. LOUIS, MO — On Thursday, Sept. 15, the Henry Miller Museum Open House will take place, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., at 2726 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, in St. Louis. The open house will include tours and refreshments. Delegates to the 39th IBEW International Convention will be able to access buses to the Henry Miller Museum from the Washington Street pickup area adjacent to the America's Center in downtown St. Louis. (Signage will direct guests to the pickup area.)

Scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 18, noon to 4 p.m.: IBEW Local 1 Open House, BBQ & Henry Miller Museum Tour. The Local 1 Open House & BBQ will take place at 5850 Elizabeth Ave., St. Louis. Local guests are invited to Local 1 for a barbecue and refreshments, with buses provided for guests to tour the Henry Miller Museum. Convention delegates and guests can also access buses to the IBEW Local 1 location, as well as to the Henry Miller Museum, from the Washington Street pickup area adjacent to the America's Center.

On a sad note, we mourn the death of the following members: Walter Mason Jr., Mark Stegall, Charles Reynolds, Michael Coyle, Dale Lopinot, Thomas Michel, James Dusin, Thomas Vogel, Lewis Kitchen, Walter Benwell and Ronnie McCutchen Jr.

Jan Bresnan, P.S.



An artist's rendering of the Henry Miller Museum and Founders Park.

## United Way Award

L.U. 15 (u), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — We are proud to announce that IBEW Local 15 and Exelon have been awarded the Leo Perlis Labor Partnership Award from United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. This award recognizes a union that excels in its support of United Way and the mission to improve lives in Chicagoland communities. The contributions of Local 15 members totaled an impressive \$717,349.47 for the 2015-'16 United Way campaign. This generosity is instrumental to the success of our workplace campaign each



IBEW Local 15 Pres. Dean Apple (second from left) and the Exelon team receive award from United Way of Metropolitan Chicago.

year. We thank everyone who donated for helping us earn this prestigious award.

Pres. Dean Apple was present to accept the award at United Way's end-of-year All-Star Celebration on behalf of IBEW Local 15. Local 15 is proud of its ongoing commitment to United Way of Metropolitan Chicago, and our efforts to improve health, education and financial stability for working families throughout Chicagoland.

Annette Kisala, P.S.

## 'Supporting Your Local Union'

L.U. 17 (catv,em,lctt,o&u), DETROIT, MI — Work has slowed a bit on our construction side. Currently, some of our journeymen and apprentices are traveling. Our Line Clearance books are clear and expected to stay that way for the foreseeable future.

As of this writing we are in negotiations with DTE Energy, our largest employer. We are not expecting a labor dispute at this time.

Local 17 has presented its Line Clearance Tree Trim Training Programs to several local unions and utilities across the U.S. It is our hope that these models can be used in organizing drives and for raising the living standards of tree trimmers in their respective jurisdictions.

We are saddened to report the passing of retired Bros. Bob Sigouin and Greg Olechnowicz. Bob, who was a former business manager, and Greg, a former assistant business manager and grievance committee chairman, were both well-known for their tenacious approach to defending our members, bargaining contracts and fighting grievances.

Our members often ask us: "What can we do to help?" One of the most important things you can do to help this great Brotherhood is to vote in this year's election! Union density is now at just 11.1 percent. How much can you afford to lose? At this writing, union workers are striking at one of Trump's casinos.

Do you really believe he will help organized labor? The IBEW is fighting for pensions, health care, a living wage, safety, training, and a host of other things many of us take for granted. We are endorsing Clinton and asking for your vote because she stands with the middle class and the IBEW!

Dean Bradley, B.M./F.S.

## Contract Ratified; Scholarship Awards

L.U. 21 (catv,govt&t), DOWNERS GROVE, IL — Lake County, Indiana, Emergency Call Center dispatchers who voted to join our local in June 2015 reached a historic first contract with Lake County representatives.

The tentative agreement, which affects nearly 100 Lake County Emergency Call Center dispatchers, was pending ratification by our members as of this writing. The IBEW 21 bargaining team, consisting of IBEW Local 21 negotiators and Lake County dispatchers, recommended that the members accept the agreement. Local 21 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Paul Wright stated: "We were seeking a contract that rewarded the dispatchers for their service to the residents of Lake County. This agreement achieves many of our goals." We thank everyone for their involvement.

Congratulations to our IBEW Local 21 Scholarship Award winners. Our committee awarded eight scholarships, to family members of Local 21 members. Our scholars were awarded based on their interpretation of the role union members play as a positive force in the community. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients: Jacob Bergman, Sarah Colberg, Natalie Cutrano, Katrina Kerr, Melissa Marcus, Samantha Reattoir, Amanda Rodriguez and Thomas Stancato.

Bob Przybylinski, R.S.

## Lineman Rodeo

L.U. 37 (em,o&u), FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA — This past June, 27 journeymen and 17 apprentice power line technicians from IBEW Local 37 (NB Power) and IBEW Local 1524 (Saint John Energy) competed in the NB Power/IBEW37 Lineman Rodeo in Fredericton, NB.

Although it's a competitive and challenging event, the rodeo also strengthens brotherhood and provides a chance to show the skills required to perform line work safely. Spectators were treated with a barbecue, and kids had lots to enjoy — including face painting, a magic

show, a crafts station, and a scavenger hunt.

Winners were announced that evening at the Rodeo Banquet. The title of Top Journeyman Team went to Local 37 members Mark McCann, Tyler Smart and Jordan Atherton. The Top Apprentice was Local 37 member Joel Pertin. We're pleased to congratulate them on their well-deserved victory.

A huge thank-you goes to members of the Steering and Competition Committees, the more than 50 dedicated volunteers, rodeo competitors, and spectators — it's your combined support and energy that ensure continued success!

The winners will head to Kansas City in October to compete in the International Lineman's Rodeo, joining other teams from across of North America.

We wish our members a safe trip and the best of luck in Kansas City!

Ross Galbraith, B.M./F.S.

## Golf Scholarship Outing; Power Station Updates

L.U. 51 (catv,lctt,o,ptc,rtb,t,u&uow), SPRINGFIELD, IL — Recently elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Matthew J. Moore, Pres. Walter Westfall, Vice Pres. Clay Davidson, Rec. Sec. Debra Perry and Treas. Julie Brandt. Members elected as International Convention delegates are: Bus. Mgr. Moore, Pres. Westfall, Treas. Brandt, Robert Colby Jr., Wes Heckman, Michael Holcomb, Roger Oakes and Bobby Wedell.

Dynegy Midwest Generation announced plans to mothball Baldwin Power Station Units 1 and 3 earlier this spring. This is in addition to the retirement of Dynegy's Wood River plant. As of this writing, Dynegy's plans have not changed. The company's decision on its coal plants has been driven by a poorly designed Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. (MISO) capacity market process.

Exelon announced its plan to shut down Clinton Power Station beginning June 2017. The local and Exelon are set to begin effects bargaining after the necessary information becomes available concerning the shutdown and the initial layoff.

Our annual Golf Scholarship Outing was a great success. We awarded college scholarships to: Mike Beardsley, Justin Dirr, Logan Knisley, Alexandria Lovel, Matthew Montague, Brandon Sparks and Daniel Walston. The winning golf team from Champaign consisted of Kyle Buhrmaster, Justin Scherbring, Kaleb Smith and Kyle Smith.

With so much at stake, it is imperative for our members to vote on Nov. 8. Donald Trump has made his intentions known, and fighting for unions is not one of them. Hillary Clinton will deliver real results for union members and our families. She is a proven fighter tough enough to get the job done on the issues

## Submitting Local Lines Articles

Local Lines are printed monthly on an alternating even/odd schedule. They can be submitted by designated press secretaries or union officers via email ([locallines@ibew.org](mailto:locallines@ibew.org)) or U.S. Mail. We have a 200-word limit. We make every effort to assist local unions in publishing useful and relevant local union news; however, all final content decisions are based on the editor's judgment. Our guidelines and deadlines are available at [www.ibew.org/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/IBEW-News-Media-Center/Submitting-Local-Lines). Please email or call the Media Department at (202) 728-6291 with any questions.

## Trade Classifications

(as) Alarm & Signal	(et) Electronic Technicians	(mps) Motion Picture Studios	(rts) Radio-Television Service
(ars) Atomic Research Service	(fm) Fixture Manufacturing	(nst) Nuclear Service Technicians	(so) Service Occupations
(bo) Bridge Operators	(govt) Government	(o) Outside	(s) Shopmen
(cs) Cable Splicers	(i) Inside	(p) Powerhouse	(se) Sign Erector
(catv) Cable Television	(it) Instrument Technicians	(pet) Professional, Engineers & Technicians	(spa) Sound & Public Address
(c) Communications	(lctt) Line Clearance Tree Trimming	(ptc) Professional, Technical & Clerical	(st) Sound Technicians
(cr) Cranemen	(lpt) Lightning Protection Technicians	(rr) Railroad	(t) Telephone
(ees) Electrical Equipment Service	(mt) Maintenance	(u) Utility	(tm) Transportation Manufacturing
(ei) Electrical Inspection	(mo) Maintenance & Operation	(uow) Utility Office Workers	(ws) Warehouse and Supply
(em) Electrical Manufacturing	(mow) Manufacturing Office Workers		
(es) Electric Signs	(mar) Marine		

Efforts are made to make this list as inclusive as possible, but the various job categories of IBEW members are too numerous to comprehensively list all.

that matter most: protecting pensions, safeguarding worker rights, bargaining collectively, and the right to organize. Vote your job — your family depends on it!

*Karlene Knisley, B.R.*

## Contracts Ratified

L.U. 97 (u), SYRACUSE, NY — Congratulations to apprentice lineman Lucas Ullman, who represented Local 97 well at the National Sisterhood United for Journeyman Linemen Rodeo (NSUJL) in Clearfield, PA. Lucas won multiple first-place awards as well as 1st Place Overall Apprentice Lineman.

In recent months we were successful in ratifying an effects bargaining agreement for Entergy Nuclear craft workers at the Fitzpatrick plant and we continue to work out an agreement for the security workforce as well.

In June, Local 97 members employed by PSEG in Glenmont ratified a four-year contract agreement that brought about yearly wage increases and changes to the medical plans.

Congratulations to Local 97 Bus. Mgr./Pres. Theodore Skerpon and his team on their recent re-election to office. This marks the first successful re-election for a third term in Local 97's history.

We look forward to seeing all the elected delegates to the 39th IBEW International Convention in St. Louis this September.

*Jim Zabinski, V.P.*



*Local 97 apprentice lineman Lucas Ullman.*

## FAA & Massport Awards — IBEW Electricians Recognized

L.U. 103 (cs&i), BOSTON, MA — Local 103 electricians employed by the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) were recognized by the Federal Aviation Administration and Massport Operations and presented with Safety & Security Team Awards for electrical department Runway Status Light System upgrades at Logan Airport and for crane repair work at Conley Marine Terminal.



*IBEW Local 103 electricians employed by Massport received FAA awards for Logan Airport project.*

Many hours of planning and scheduling went into installing updated equipment, lights, cables and transformers. This project was completed with minimal impact to daily operations, using no outside contractors, and was completed in record time with no defects, downtime, or injuries! Credit goes to our Local 103 electrical team for a job well done! Congratulations on a great job go to: Jim Dee, Ralph Visconti, Ted Fullam, Rich Cruise, Matt Clogher, John Nigro, Noel Montesano, Rich Johns, Steve Breslin, Mike Jacobs, Glen Buchanan, Ed Casaletto, Angelo Bonaventura, Joe Clark, Anne Marie Raftery, Chris Bodensieck and Steve Coleman.

*Louis J. Antonellis, Pres.*

## Completion Certificate

L.U. 109 (u), ROCK ISLAND, IL — Local 109 member Todd Lopshire, pictured in the photo below, became a journeyman welder in April of 2016. Todd works out of the Rock Island Service Center for MidAmerican Energy Company. Congratulations to Bro. Lopshire on his achievement.

Presenting Todd with his completion certificate were Local 109 certified welder trainer Tim Harris and Local 109 certified pipeline welder Bryce Knapper.

*Denise Newberry, R.S.*



*Local 109 members Tim Harris (left), Todd Lopshire and Bryce Knapper.*

## Officers Elected; Service Awards Presented

L.U. 111 (em,govt,lctt,mt,o,rtb,spa&u), DENVER, CO — The Local 111 election of officers and delegates to the 39th IBEW International Convention took place recently and the membership has voted to elect the leadership of their local union.

Congratulations to: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Sean P. McCarville, Pres. Patrick Quinn, Vice Pres. Kristie Knudson, Treas. Robert Estrada, Rec. Sec. Edmond Roehre; Executive Board members William Ashley, Gene Baca, Julie Borger, Ron Geary, George Gurule, Carol "Kelly" Horn and Alfred "Denny" Wallace; Examining Board members Jeff Jablonski, Michael Moore and Jimmy Coslet III. Delegates-at-large to the 39th IBEW International Convention are: Eppie Martinez, Mike Kostelecky, Richard Meisinger, Kristie Knudson, Robert Estrada, Duane Lawlor, Nate Gutierrez and Gene Baca. Following officer training on July 8, all newly elected officers and Executive Board members were sworn in by Bro. Jerry King.

We also wish to acknowledge our members receiving their 50-, 55-, 60-, 65-, and 75-year service award pins and certificates from the IBEW. Congratulations to our: 50-year pin award recipients — John Derre-ra, Don Moseley, Richard Saylor, Robert Steinbach, Harold Thompson and James Watkins; 55-year

award recipient — Louis Zutman; 60-year award recipient — Ronald Draper; 65-year award recipients — Henry Baty, Milford Clark, James Grosshans and John Johnson; and 75-year award recipient — Leo Litt.

*Mike Kostelecky, P.S.*

## Election of Officers

L.U. 113 (catv,ees,em,i,mo&o), COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — On May 4, during the regular meeting, nominations were taken for officers of Local 113. Turnout was heavy and it was great to see the many faces getting involved in the process. Hats off to all who came out and participated. Here now are the election results.

Elected to office are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Mike Ham, Pres. Brian Bradley, Vice Pres. Matt Hall, Rec. Sec. Joe Collins and Treas. Ken Schauer. Elected to the Executive Board: Vern Kapu, Kevin Komp, Leon Mattsen, Hugh Smith, Glenn Kapu and Eric Kapu. Examining Board: Tobi Collins, William Decker, Bradley Hartman, Brett Jones and Richard Juarez. Our Building Association members are: Brian Bradley, Mike Ham, Brian Murray and Francis Vigil. International Convention delegates are Brian Bradley, Francis Vigil, Vern Kapu and Mike Ham. Congratulations to all who made this happen!

On the topic of elections, we do have another one on the near horizon. Please consider volunteering at the hall as we gear up for November 2016 elections. We will need much help manning the phones and walking precincts to help keep our friends in office and our opponents out. Please help elect friends of working people at the national, state and local level.

As always work smart, work professionally, and work safe. In solidarity.

*Brian Putnam, P.S.*



*Local 113 recently elected officers are sworn in.*

## Annual Benefit Golf Classic; Oregon Burn Center Fundraiser

L.U. 125 (lctt,o,t&u), PORTLAND, OR — The 20th Annual Benefit Golf Classic was held in Hood River, OR, on June 25. This annual event raises funds for the Oregon Burn Center at Legacy Emanuel Health Center.

It is fitting that the Benefit Golf Classic Committee honored Local 125 retired member Bill Quimby with the Sponsor of the Year Award in recognition of his hard work and dedication not only to the event but also to the OBC itself. Additionally, the Oregon Burn Center Foundation honored Quimby and Local 125 retiree Gene Daily for their 20-year commitment to and support of the OBC. Thank you to all participants, sponsors and volunteers for their support. Visit [www.benefitgolfclassic.com](http://www.benefitgolfclassic.com) for a list of golf classic winners and a donation total.

On June 8, Local 125 Election Judge Travis Hefely, along with tellers Jake Faulkner, Mike Pyatt and Kevin Townsend, certified the tally of votes for delegates to the 39th IBEW International Convention. The following Local 125 members were elected by the membership

as convention delegates: Wade Anderson (PGE), Randy Bryson (PGE), Jeff Carson, Robert Clarkson, Raymond Cowell (Pacific Power), Marcy Grail, Joe Spears (PGE), and Tim Titus. Bus. Mgr. Travis Eri and Pres. Larry Browning will also attend the convention.

*Marcy Grail, A.B.M.*

## 2016 Apprentice Graduates

L.U. 139 (i&u), ELMIRA, NY — IBEW Local 139 is proud to present its newest journeyman wiremen. These young men have been exemplary apprentices, both in the classroom and out in the field. They are an example of what's great about the IBEW and our future. The 2016 apprenticeship graduates are: Kimathi Arnold, Rob Bell, Shane Moore, Justin Sabins and Sam Schimizzi. Congratulations, brothers.

*Ernie Hartman, B.M.*



*Local 139 class of 2016 apprenticeship graduates: Rob Bell (left), Justin Sabins, Kimathi Arnold, Sam Schimizzi and Shane Moore.*

## Labor Day Celebrated; Rally for Working People

L.U. 145 (em,i,o,rts,se,spa&u), ROCK ISLAND, IL — We salute the hardworking men and women of this great nation, and especially the brothers and sisters of the IBEW, on the very celebrated Labor Day weekend. Like many other cities and communities across the United States, the people of labor join together in parades and community events to celebrate their toils and successes, their history of working together to make this great nation what it is today.

On May 18, many union members from across the state of Illinois joined together at the state Capitol in Springfield to rally against our current governor and his so-called "turn-around agenda." The governor's agenda severely weakens the middle class and the union's rights to collectively bargain. His actions hold the state hostage, and the lengthy delay in passing a state budget places the burden on the backs of hard-working men and women in Illinois.

Work has slowed down somewhat with the completion of several big projects. We are optimistic that other projects will come through and keep our work picture steady.

Work safe and support your local union! In solidarity.

*Dan Larson, P.S.*

## Blitzing + Summer Fun = Building the Union

L.U. 191 (c,i,mo,rtb&st), EVERETT, WA — Our summer was filled with many social activities; picnics, golf tournaments, ball games and a night at the races.

IBEW 191's Community Outreach Plan continues to grow. We have signs at local ballfields, malls, race-tracks and ads on the radio.

Special thanks go to our organizers for conducting a very successful blitz under the direction of Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joe Lorenzo. We received generous help from several of our sister locals: Locals 46, 48, 73, 77 and 89. A total of 167 homes were visited by a total of 43 IBEW members over the two-day event. These initial contacts with unrepresented workers

## LOCAL LINES



At a recent Local 191 blitz, Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Joe Lorenzo (right) thanks Local 46 volunteer Deirdre Williams for participating in the drive.

help to portray the IBEW in a positive light.

Our work picture remains strong and we want to thank our members and travellers for manning the jobs and doing quality work.

Bill Mirand, P.S.

## Work Picture Strong; Community Service Volunteers

L.U. 229 (em&i), YORK, PA — The Local 229 construction group has full employment, with many travelers working in our jurisdiction. The work picture looks very good through 2016.

Reminder to all retirees: The Retirees Breakfast is held the last Wednesday of every month, at 8:30 a.m., at West Manchester Diner, 930 Carlisle Rd., York, PA.

The 2016 apprenticeship graduates performed various tasks on a Habitat for Humanity project in Red Lion, PA, on May 7. Tasks included electrical rough-in, building and insulating walls, wrapping the house to prepare for siding, and wrapping windows and doors with metal. It was great to see these men applying their skills for a good cause in service to the community.

Our local continues to make community service a priority through our relationships with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Junior Achievement, and the York County Food Bank. We hope that relationships like these will grow as we develop our newly chartered IBEW RENEW committee.

We are very proud of our members, such as the class of 2016, who recognize the importance of a strong community, a positive public image, and an engaged membership. Thank you and congratulations to all.

Timothy Griffin, P.S./Tr. Dir.



Local 229 apprenticeship graduates volunteer for Habitat for Humanity project: from left, Glenn Gallagher, Clayton McKinley, Nathan Smeltzer, Mason Simpson, Ronald Hilbert and Richard Kuehne.

## Important Election Year

L.U. 245 (govt,lctt,o,rtb&u), TOLEDO, OH — The work picture at Local 245 is steady with a few new jobs on the horizon. All of the apprentices are working and the local will be looking to start some new ones soon.

Regarding contract negotiations, the Outside Construction 71/245 agreement is up, as is the Ohio/Michigan commercial agreement. The contracts for

members employed by WTOL Channel 11 and the Bryan Wastewater Treatment Plant will be up for negotiation later this year.

There is an important election this fall. The next U.S. president will make a number of important appointments, and those appointments can have a huge impact that can last long after that president leaves office. It is important that we elect labor-friendly candidates, because their decisions greatly affect our ability to make a decent living. If we can't make a decent living, many of those other issues don't seem to be as important anymore.

There is a lot of big money in this election thanks to the Supreme Court's Citizens United vs. FEC decision, which allows unlimited campaign spending by big money corporate interests. Don't be fooled by all those commercials you see; go to a source you trust for information about a candidate or an issue. We have proved time and time again that, when working people are informed and politically active, common sense can beat big money every time.

Have a safe and wonderful fall season. I'll see some of you at the IBEW 39th International Convention in St. Louis. For those who are traveling, have a safe trip.

Ray Zychowicz, P.S.



Local 269 retiree Eugene Kehoe Sr. displays service award presented by New Jersey Assemblyman and Local 269 Pres. Wayne P. DeAngelo (left) and Bus. Mgr. Steve Aldrich. Seated at back is Eugene Kehoe Jr.

## Annual Retirees Dinner & Service Awards Presentation

L.U. 269 (i&o), TRENTON, NJ — The Local 269 Annual Retirees Dinner is an event that honors members for their years of commitment and dedication to our profession and our union way of life.

The life of a construction electrician is not an easy one. Finding the optimum balance in providing an income for your family and giving enough of yourself to those who depend on you for love and support is not an easy task.

So when a member is awarded his IBEW years-of-service pin — be it for 20, 30, or 50 years of service — that time is not just represented in buildings built and projects completed. That time is also represented equally by little league games, graduations and walks down the aisle.

It is for all this and more that we acknowledge longtime members for their service and their achievements. Unfortunately, not all can be present to accept their accolades, so we bring the ceremony to them. Such was the case when Bus. Mgr. Steve Aldrich and Pres. Wayne P. DeAngelo, New Jersey Assemblyman, brought ailing retired member Eugene Kehoe Sr. his pin commemorating 70 years of IBEW membership, as his proud son Eugene Kehoe Jr. looked on. Times like these remind us that as many have depended on Bro. Gene, he may also depend on us.

Brian Jacoppo, P.S.

## Union Yes!

L.U. 343 (i,spa&st), LE SUEUR, MN — Happy Labor Day, brothers and sisters! Take a moment and reflect on how union membership has benefited you and your family. Are you better off? During the Industrial Revolution of the 1700s and 1800s, workers in Europe and the United States began to form organizations, called "combinations," to protect themselves. Almost every government outlawed combinations because of pressure from wealthy factory owners. Sound familiar? In 1741, thirty-five years before our country declared independence from Britain, bakers went on strike in New York City protesting how the city controlled bread prices. They were tried and convicted, but never sentenced. Fair wages and safe working conditions are not automatic or guaranteed.

Each one of us has the power to improve the lives of other working Americans, by purchasing USA-made products. Just say "no" to foreign made products.

Tom Small, P.S.

## Labor Day Tribute

L.U. 347 (em,i,mt,rtb,rt&spa), DES MOINES, IA — Happy Labor Day. The movement for the eight-hour day began in the late 1870s. Thousands of strikes were staged on the issue until the Workingmen's Party in Chicago called for a general strike in May of 1886. Two days later, during a rally, what is known as the Haymarket Square Massacre erupted when a bomb was tossed and the police began shooting wildly. Many of the police who were shot during the melee, were shot by their own. Eight defendants were indicted, tried and convicted. It can be proven seven were innocent. Four were executed.

Eight years later, the U.S. Congress approved Labor Day. Pres. Grover Cleveland, in an attempt to distance Labor Day in the United States from the Haymarket Square Massacre and the International Labor Day in May, declared Labor Day shall be observed in September. Yes, Virginia, people were actually killed for better working conditions.

On a happier note, work is still strong in Local 347. Preparations will soon be underway for the new and improved Make-A-Wish Jolly Holiday Light display.

Congratulations to recently elected officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Pat Wells, Pres. Scott Farnsworth, Vice Pres. Matt Carpenter, Rec. Sec. Matt DeAngelo and Treas. Kyle Overton. Executive Board members are: Jason Ballard, Adam Cassady, Tim Hawthorne, Tim LeClaire, Dave Reid and Doug Wolf.

Have a safe, enjoyable Labor Day.

Mike Schweiger, P.S.

## Newly Elected Officers; Apprenticeship Graduates

L.U. 375 (catv,ees&i), ALLENTOWN, PA — IBEW Local 375 celebrated Memorial Day by holding its Annual Family Picnic on Saturday, May 28, at Dorney Park & Wild Water Kingdom. We reached an all-time attendance record with



Local 375 officers: Examining Board member Robert Franklin (left), Rec. Sec. Douglas Hall, Executive Board members Joseph Shober and Steven Ringer, Vice Pres. Lonnie Hill, Pres. Craig Siegfried, Executive Board member David Reichard, Treas. Alan Rex, Examining Board member Michael Hill and Bus Mgr. Paul Anthony.

well over 660 members and their families enjoying a fun day of food, beverages, rides and waves.

As another school year passes, we welcome 10 newly graduated journeymen to our ranks. They are: Nyechay Lawless, David LeBlanc, Eric Moore, David Moyer, James Newman, Zachery Pole, Islam Shkirzyanov, Gregory Simmons, David Walko and Joshua White. Good job and congratulations! Dave LeBlanc earned the top grade-point average for five years in his class. He was presented a cordless hammer drill for his accomplishments. Because of his scholastic achievements and his work with our 3DYC team, the local is proudly sending Dave to the National Training Institute (NTI) event this year as our Outstanding Apprentice. We also thank Milwaukee Tools for its support of our apprenticeship program.

Our local union elections were held June 8. The newly elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Paul Anthony, Pres. Craig Siegfried, Vice Pres. Lonnie Hill, Rec. Sec. Douglas Hall and Treas. Alan Rex. Elected to the Executive Board: David Harding, David Reichard, Steven Ringer and Joseph Shober. Elected to the Examining Board: Robert Franklin, Michael Hill and Todd Parton.

Healthcare and Retirement Trustee: Alan Rex. Vacation Trustees: Todd Jones and Ronald Widmann. Delegates to the International Convention: Bus. Mgr. Anthony, David Reichard and Craig Siegfried. Alternate delegate to the Convention: Brett Martucci.

Congratulations to all as you continue to serve the members of Local 375.

Dave Reichard, A.B.M.

## Election of Officers; Graduation Ceremony

L.U. 441 (as,i&rts), SANTA ANA, CA — This past June we had our local elections and would like to congratulate all the officers who were elected.

Our Local 441 elected officers are: Bus. Mgr. Richard Samaniego, Pres. Neal Lauson, Vice Pres. Jeff Gatlin, Treas. Mike Gale, Rec. Sec. Chris Solario; Executive Board members Dean Francis, Fred Young, Nick Sparks, Shane Levoit, Jeff Clark; and Examining Board members John Leyvas, Jim Galla and Joseph Newby.

Congratulations also go out to our recent graduates from the Orange County Electrical Training Trust. Over 400 people attended the ceremony at the Westminster Rose Garden celebrating the graduation of two Inside classes, two Sound classes, and one Disney Maintenance class. Congratulations, brothers and sisters!

Neal Lauson, Pres.

## Career Fairs & Organizing

L.U. 449 (catv,em,i,o,rtb,rt&spa&u), POCATELLO, ID — We have been working hard to organize all the electrical workers in our area. With the work picture looking good, we could use the help from our traveling brothers and sisters. At press time we were making plans to hold a Career Fair in two different locations soon.

As of this writing, one is planned for Twin Falls and one on the eastern side of the state, so that we can reach as many people as possible. With the success that we had the last time we did the career fair, we are certain we will have the same type of success again this time around.

The AT&T Direct TV campaign is going well. The local is excited to have these new technicians as members and looks forward to making their future brighter and the labor movement stronger.

With deepest regret, Local 449 announces the passing of Bro. Larry Jensen. We send our deepest condolences to his family. Larry will be missed but never forgotten.

Local 449 congratulates Bros. Billy Ray Garret, Joe Zavala and Kelly Norman on their retirement from Local 449. We also thank them for all the hard work and dedicated service they have given as local union members. Thank you, brothers!

Joe Maloney, Mbr. Dev. Rep.



At Local 481 picnic, Bus. Mgr. Steve Munser volunteers for "Dunk the Business Manager" fundraiser.

## Apprenticeship Graduates; Great Turnout at June Picnic

L.U. 481 (ees,em,i,mt,rts,s&spa), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — IBEW Local 481 was proud to welcome our newest apprenticeship graduating class this summer. Congratulations to these new journeyman wireman and journeyman installer tech graduates, and good luck to you all on your future career in the IBEW. Stay active and involved and do your part for our local union to continue succeeding in all we do.

We had our local union picnic in June and there was a great turnout from the membership. With bounce houses, face painting, exotic animals, catered food, live bands and giveaways, everyone had something to enjoy. A highlight for attendees was seeing old friends and meeting new friends. It is a truly great example of brotherhood and being involved in the local. To raise funds for our Local 481 Help Fund, Bus. Mgr. Steve Menser participated in a "Dunk the Business Manager" event, where members took a shot at dunking him, and some succeeded! A special thank-you goes to Bus. Rep. Jason Burcham and the Local 481 Picnic Committee (Terry Berg, Pamela Blume, Mike Hunter, Chris Madden, Logan Menser, Rick Saylor and Frank White) for all their hard work putting on a great event.

Blake Andrews, R.S.

## Clinton Rally at Fairgrounds

L.U. 553 (i,mt,o&ws), RALEIGH, NC — On June 22, as Local 553's press secretary and office assistant, I had the privilege of attending presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's rally at the state fairgrounds in Raleigh. I was invited to the event by the North Carolina AFL-CIO and went as a representative of IBEW Local 553.

At the rally, Clinton stated, "I believe we should strengthen unions, which have formed the bedrock of a strong middle class."

"It should be easier to bargain collectively," Clinton told attendees. "That's not only fair, it makes work-

ers more productive, it strengthens our economy."

Clinton said: "Unions are providing training programs that add value to the companies that employ their members. Union pension funds are already investing in infrastructure projects that have supported more than 100,000 jobs here in our country."

She also expressed support for programs like the IBEW/NECA apprenticeship training programs. "I will support the union apprenticeship and training programs already out there," Clinton said.

To hear such words of support from a major political figure in a so-called "right-to-work" state is of great significance for working people. Attending the rally was an experience that simply can't be replicated. I was honored to have had this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear her speak, and to be there representing Local 553.

Josh Nixon, P.S.

## Work Picture Improves; RENEW Gains Momentum

L.U. 557 (i,mt,rts&spa), SAGINAW, MI — With summer jobs in full swing at this writing, we are happy that our work has picked up for the summer months. This has allowed us to put some more of our members back to work in their home local. While we still haven't had as much work as we hoped, we have been able to bring some members home to work. With the rest of our members working neighboring locals throughout the state, it has been a better summer than others in the past.

We recently have had additional success with our RENEW — Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers — program. We were able to purchase another banner with funds raised through fundraisers held by our committee. This program is starting to gain success and forward motion in our local area. It has seemed to raise awareness about the greater good of unions and the members who make up our great local. We cannot wait for the future that is ahead of us. With a new apprenticeship class that has joined our already existing members, we have a bright and prosperous future in our local area.

Howard Revard, P.S.



IBEW Local 557 members and families walk in Shields Festival parade in Saginaw, MI.

## Congratulations to All!

L.U. 569 (i,mar,mt,rts&spa), SAN DIEGO, CA — IBEW Local 569 recently wrapped up our local's elections, and we congratulate our newly elected leadership, including Pres. David Taylor and our new Bus. Mgr. Nick Segura.

We also congratulate Johnny Simpson, our former business manager, on his new position as an IBEW Ninth District international representative. Under his leadership, IBEW 569 nearly doubled our membership, signed a record number of project labor agreements, and spearheaded partnerships with environmental allies that resulted in thousands of IBEW members working on renewable energy projects. Thank you, Johnny!

Earlier this summer, IBEW 569 and NECA graduated 54 hard-working union members from our outstanding joint apprenticeship program! This is a strong next generation of certified electricians, power professionals

and sound techs and we are proud of their work!

We also want to recognize our 2016 apprentice recipients of our IBEW 569 Union Strong Award, each of whom have stepped up to share their stories on how our apprenticeship program and opportunity to "learn while you earn" has strengthened communities and changed lives. Our awardees have also volunteered at countless union events and walked hundreds of miles to help elect candidates who support working families! Congratulations to the award recipients: David Johnson, Elizabeth Niemann and Evangeline McDonald!

Gretchen K. Newsom, P.S.



Class of 2016 graduates of the joint apprenticeship program of IBEW Local 569 and NECA San Diego.

## Apprenticeship Graduation; Contract Agreement Ratified

L.U. 595 (c,cs,govt,i,mt,o,se&st), DUBLIN, CA — June was an especially busy month for Local 595. Apprentices from San Joaquin and Calaveras Counties to Alameda County celebrated their accomplishments during the apprenticeship graduation ceremonies. Congratulations to all the new journeyman inside wiremen and the new Sound & Communications installers.

Negotiations were completed for the Alameda County Inside Wireman Agreement. The negotiations committee presented a joint recommendation that was ratified by the membership at our May membership meeting. The new three-year contract became effective June 1, 2016.

Local 595 wishes to recognize all the work Bro. Dave Brooks has done with the San Joaquin/Calaveras Counties JATC. He served as training director for 16 years and prior to that spent 24 years in the field. He

has worked as a journeyman inside wireman, as well as foreman and general foreman, from California to Alaska and back. He provided a wealth of knowledge for everyone who worked with him or who was a student trained by him. His contributions to the electrical industry, the IBEW and Local 595 are invaluable.

Bro. Dave Brooks is retiring after 40 years of IBEW service and he will be sorely missed. We wish him all the best as he continues his journey. Thank you, Bro. Dave.

[Editor's Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship

Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See "NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance," *The Electrical Worker* (Sept. 2014), and at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).]

Jason Gumataotao, P.S.

## Kickoff for RENEW Chapter

L.U. 617 (c,i,mo&st), SAN MATEO, CA — On June 27, Local 617 members gathered to discuss the great work of RENEW members nationally and to kick off a

RENEW Chapter of our own. This first meeting for the Reach out and Engage Next-gen Electrical Workers group was well-attended, and Matt Ghilarducci, Leon Marshall, David Rupp, Eric Turner and Reina Vigil stepped up to comprise our Steering Committee. Thank you to Alex Caraballo (Local 332), Joshua Margolis, (Local 25) and Mia Rivas (Local 595) for joining us!

As we build for a bright future ahead ... we proudly congratulate our Apprentice Graduating Class of 2016! [Photo at bottom, right.]

The recent apprentice graduates are: Daniel Blackmore, Mario Borg, Patrick Celentano, David Collins, Froilan Contreras, Steven Devlin, Dominic Dito, Phillip Dito, Sasha Doctor, Nicholas Ferraro, Louis Gardella, Kalvin Gattton, Eduardo Godinez, Brendan Goodman, Todd Guerin, Neal Hodgden, Steve Ingelfinger, Bennett Khoo, Leon Marshall, Antonio Paraiso, Nick Peneyra, Michael Watts, Daniel Semke Jr. and Samuel White.

Thank you to instructors — Glenn Arvin, Barbara Cox, Brian Gaines, Douglas Goldman, Dave Hus-ton, Thomas Frenzel, Edward Murphy Jr., Long Nguyen, Dan Pasini, John Robins, Basil Romero, Donna "D.J." Siegman and Matthew Schlecht; and assistant instructors — Edward Flair, Joseph Grant, Joseph Savino and Eric Turner.

Dan Pasani, Pres.  
Jamie Thompson, P.S.

## Apprenticeship Graduates; Sept. 22 Skills Competition

L.U. 639 (i&rts), SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA — Congratulations to the apprenticeship graduating class of 2016. Graduation ceremonies were held June 4 at F. McLintocks in Shell Beach, CA. [See photo, page 12.]

Guest speaker at the graduation ceremony was Dawn Ortiz-Legg, candidate for the open seat to represent California's 35th District in the state Assembly. Dawn has a longstanding relationship with Local 639, facilitating training opportunities and acting as a liaison for First Solar Inc. at the Topaz Solar Farm.

Our new JATC Training Dir. Dan Miller started a community outreach program. Dan has been attending job fairs and making presentations to local high schools, community colleges and even our local prison, getting the word out to the community about organized labor, apprenticeships and the IBEW.

On Sept. 22, Local 639 will partner with Ideal Industries Inc. for the company's National Champion-



Local 617 congratulates 2016 apprentice graduates.

## LOCAL LINES



Local 639 graduating apprentices: Jared Levanway (left), Clark Rossetti, Cole Hadick, Kevin Via, Tyler Stefanich (outstanding apprentice award recipient), Nate Purdin and Ben Ramos.

ships event to showcase the skills of electrical industry tradesmen. The company produces tools and equipment for the electrical and telecommunications industries. The championships event is part of the company's centennial celebration.

We will be hosting the Sept. 22 skills competition event and BBQ at an open house at our San Luis Obispo JATC apprenticeship training center, with cash and prizes totaling up to \$500,000. The event is open to the general public and all are welcome.

**[Editor's Note: The National Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (NJATC) rebranded in 2014 and transitioned into the Electrical Training Alliance. See "NJATC Transitions into the Electrical Training Alliance," The Electrical Worker (Sept. 2014), and at [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).]**

Kurt McClave, P.S.



Local 673 former president Bob Gamiere (far left) swears in officers: from left, Rec. Sec. Gretchen Bryan, Treas. Craig Egeland, Executive Board member Don Ziemak, Pres. Joe Gamiere, Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Danny Lastoria, Executive Board member Rory Breedlove, and Vice Pres. Scotty Sopko. (Not pictured: Mike Kubacki, Executive Board.)

## Officers Elected

L.U. 673 (catv,i,rts,spa,t&u), PAINESVILLE, OH — Congratulations to our newly elected officers. The Local 673 election took place in June, and officers were elected for a three-year term. Thanks to all for stepping up to make our local better. We wish the officers a successful three years ahead.

Elected officers are: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Danny Lastoria, Pres. Joe Gamiere, Vice Pres. Scotty Sopko, Rec. Sec. Gretchen Bryan, Treas. Craig Egeland; and Executive Board members Don Ziemak, Rory Breedlove and Mike Kubacki.

Thank you to outgoing president Bobby Gamiere for his dedicated service to our local. He served as president for 12 years. We appreciate his dedicated service.

Dave Phillips, P.S.

## A New Union Hall

L.U. 683 (em&i), COLUMBUS, OH — Renovations on our new union hall and offices have begun and will be completed by the time this is published.

Our final Bricker Hall Chuck Bland Fish Fry was a great success. There were a lot of younger members who attended for the first time and several retirees who haven't been for years.

In May we had our yearly dinner to celebrate the newly topped out journeyman wiremen. Attendance was great this year. Unfortunately, as of press time, photos from the party were not available. However, I hope to include a photo with my next article. Kudos to all the graduates.

Tracy Starcher, V.P./P.S.

## 2016 Election Season — Make Your Vote Count

L.U. 697 (c,es,i,mt&se), GARY AND HAMMOND, IN — The election season is in full swing and I am sure many of us look forward to getting past the Nov. 8 Election Day.

However, we must make every effort to engage and remind ourselves of the recent attacks on the livelihoods of working Hoosiers. If you or someone you know still needs to register to vote, the deadline to register or update your registration is Tuesday, Oct. 11. Early voting in the County Clerk's office and all satellite locations begins on Oct. 12. Absentee ballot requests (applications) must be received by the circuit court clerk's office by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31.

Due to our unpredictable schedules at many of our worksites, carefully consider early voting at any convenient satellite location or via absentee ballot.

In the 2012 elections, nearly 265,000 union members and their families did not vote statewide, which resulted in our losses at the Indiana Statehouse on Common Construction Wage and right-to-work (or "Right to Wreck") legislation. Vote your pocketbook!

On another note, consider volunteering for Rebuilding Together. The core mission is to help disadvantaged people stay warm, safe and dry in their own homes.

Also, our Annual Awards Night is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 7 at the Avalon.

Dan Waldrop, B.M./F.S.

## OPC Hockey Tournament; New Construction Projects

L.U. 773 (as,em,i,mo&o), WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA — This past spring the IBEW 2016 OPC Hockey Tournament was hosted by Ann Arbor, Michigan. The tournament is an annual event.

Several IBEW locals participated in organizing and/or running the 2016 tournament, which was dubbed by some the IBEW Motor Cities hockey tournament. Those locals included: Ann Arbor Local 252; Toledo, Ohio, Local 8; Detroit Local 58; and Windsor Local 773. My sources tell me Local 773 Bros. Barry Ball and Norm Ball were in the thick of the "war room" taking care of schedules and statistics and keeping a tight ship. A team from Winnipeg Local 2085 also competed in the tournament, which is normally held in

Ontario. Local 2085 will host the 2017 tournament.

In other news, a new high school construction project in Leamington, Ontario, was awarded to Pare Electric. The W. F. Herman High School rebuild and additions project went to Tucker Electric.

Rorison Electric has been working on the Windsor Armouries, built in 1902, now in the hands of the University of Windsor. Renovation will transform this historic hall into a school of music and visual arts.

These are a few projects that will put Local 773 members to work during these slow times.

David Spencer, P.S.

## Brotherhood at Golf Course — Annual Memorial Tournament

L.U. 777 (u), READING, PA — Annually for more than 25 years, Local 777's Unit 4 has been holding a memorial golf tournament at various area golf courses throughout the area.

The majority of Unit 4 is set in Berks County, PA, enveloping a part of our membership working at line operations and warehouse shops in Bethel, Boyertown, Hamburg, and Reading.

First and foremost, the tournament is about the remembrance of our brothers and sisters we have lost to sickness or accident throughout the years.

The golf! It's a scramble. Some take it more seriously than others, but all have fun with it. After the match, participants enjoy an informal awards presentation, lunch and refreshments. To quote Bro. Glenn Harting, who has organized the event for many years: "It's a day of fellowship mixed with golf."

The group includes both active members and retirees. Swapping old war stories about times past, the politics of the day, and even sometimes golf. It's sad, but over the last several years, we have seen the number of tournament participants drop.

Our thanks to Bros. Dave Marsh and David Yatsko for taking on managing the event this year. Hopefully they can keep this tournament, this day of brotherhood, thriving for years to come.

Mark Power, P.S.

## Excellence in Training Award

L.U. 915 (i&mt), TAMPA, FL — Local 915 was proud to recognize our Electrical Training Alliance Program Dir. David McCraw as a recipient of the 2015 National Award for Excellence in Training plaque for our training program. The plaque was sent to Bus. Mgr. Randall King by IBEW Fifth District Int. Vice Pres. Joseph S. Davis. Recognition was given to Bro. King for his continued involvement in the success of the training program. Vice Pres. Davis conveyed his thanks to all involved in the membership training and let them know that the IBEW is proud of them for their dedication.

Local 915 is also proud to recognize Sister Theresa King, who was assigned by Int. Vice Pres. Davis to be the Fifth District representative to the newly



2015 National Training Award plaque presented to Local 915 Apprenticeship Training Dir. David McCraw (left) and Bus. Mgr. Randall King.

formed IBEW Women's Committee. Sister King attended the 2016 IBEW Women's Conference, where the first meeting of this committee was held. We know she will represent Local 915 and the Fifth District honorably while working to build a strong sisterhood within the Brotherhood.

With the election season upon us, we all need to remember our oath taken upon joining the IBEW and make certain that we do not sacrifice our union's interest in any manner, and that includes at the ballot box.

Theresa King, R.S./P.S.  
Michael Weeks, Pres.

## 50-Year Service Award

L.U. 1055 (u), PENSACOLA, FL — Local 1055 congratulates Bro. Donald E. Miller for 50 years of dedicated IBEW service.

Bro. Miller began his IBEW career serving as an apprentice for four years followed by eight years as a construction electrician in Local 676, working in locations from Seattle, WA, to Ft. Myers, FL, and dozens of locations in between. In 1977 he moved from Local 676 to Local 1055 when his career changed from construction electrician to that of maintenance electrician working for Gulf Power Company, an affiliate of Southern Company. Bro. Miller has numerous extended family members who have served the IBEW, most notably his father, Bro. E.E. "Double E" Miller, who is also a long-time IBEW member and a Local 1055 retiree.

During his 50 years of service to the IBEW, Bro. Don Miller served his local in several capacities including job steward, executive board member, and negotiations team member.

Bro. Mike West, steward, presented an IBEW 50-year service pin and certificate honoring Bro. Don Miller for his distinguished service to the IBEW.

Michael J. West, P.S. pro tem



Local 1245 Communications Dir. Eric Wolfe presents AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Elizabeth Shuler with a signed copy of "Fist Full of Lightning."

## Diablo Canyon Power Plant; 'Fist Full of Lightning'

L.U. 1245 (catv,em,govt,lctt,o,pet,t&u), VACAVILLE, CA — Thanks in large part to an aggressive grassroots campaign driven by IBEW Local 1245 members, the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant will remain open and operational for the next eight to nine years, until its license expires in 2024-2025. Local 1245 negotiated a generous retention package for IBEW members at the plant, which includes a generous 25 percent annual bonus, followed by a severance allowance (for employees who do not bid out).

"I do not believe there can ever be a sustainable energy economy that is based on a disposable workforce, said Local 1245 Bus. Mgr. Tom Dalzell. "That's why we fought so hard to protect our members. Together with the long transition and the very strong

retention package, we will be able to keep our members on the job for as long as possible. This is a victory in our ongoing struggle to make sure middle-class jobs are a central part of the emerging clean energy economy." [Editor's Note: See "Nuclear Power On Path to Extinction in California," August 2016 issue of *The Electrical Worker*, pg. 5, and posted online at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).]

Local 1245 released a new history book, "Fist Full of Lightning: Workers, Power and the Invention of a Union." Authored by Local 1245 Communications Dir. Eric Wolfe, it graphically portrays several IBEW inspired utility strikes that shook the West Coast, including street car strikes in 1906-1907, the PG&E strike of 1913, and more. The story describes the rise of a new industrial union movement at PG&E in the 1940s that finally forced PG&E to the bargaining table. Wolfe explores how IBEW 1245 became a labor powerhouse representing working people.

In outside construction, the work picture is steady. In addition to the work that has been contracted out through the utilities in Local 1245's jurisdiction, additional projects — including large solar, Caltrain electrification, high-speed rail and the trailer park modification pilot projects — should provide good jobs for members for several years. In addition to the construction work, members are also performing inspection services, locating and support service work throughout the jurisdiction.

Rebecca Band, P.S.

## Kudos for Heroic Act

L.U. 1249 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), SYRACUSE, NY — IBEW Local 1249 Vice Pres. Henry Westbrook III had a special message for the membership in June:

"I would like to give special recognition to a Harlan Electric crew that preformed a heroic act," Westbrook said.

He reported that while the Local 1249 outside construction crew was cooking outside on the grill after work at their hotel, they heard someone from the hotel shout for help.

The crew ran inside to find that the clerk behind the desk was lying on the floor. That was when members Richard Hack and Scott Peterson went behind the counter and realized the young woman was unresponsive and not breathing. They immediately started to administer CPR. After a few breaths and chest compressions, she started to respond. The rest of the crew called 911, kept people back and out of the way, and made a clear path for the paramedics. The paramedics took over and took the young woman to the hospital.

Kudos to the Local 1249 Harlan crew members who took action to assist in the emergency situation: Robert Grant, Richard Hack, Scott Peterson, Brian Nordberg, John Cougler and Paul Hardesty.

We are proud that our very own IBEW members were able to help.

Jennifer Schneider, P.S.

## Family Tradition as Linemen

L.U. 1393 (catv,lctt,o,t&u), INDIANAPOLIS, IN — Some things are common in families. Maybe it's that quirky trait, or it might be a shared hobby such as hunting or fishing that is so irresistible; others might say it's just in your blood.

For the Breeden family, it's all about being IBEW linemen. The family tradition began when Frank Breeden joined our local's predecessor, Local B-9, in 1935. Our records indicate that Frank retired from Local 1393 in 1970. In 1952, Frank's son, William, started with our local and retired in 1990. William's son, Michael Breeden, was a lineman with Duke Energy from 1974-2012. Michael has two sons, Jay and William, who are linemen in our local. Jay passed his exam on June 8, 2015. And William passed his exam on May 16, 2016. William

also took over duties as steward for the Loogootee District Office (Duke Energy).

William's brother, his father, and his grandfather were all present for the moment that Will passed his examination and earned the title journeyman lineman. It was a special moment for all to witness. To see such dedication to both the craft, and to union ideals, is quite a sight. We hope to see family traditions such as this continue for many years to come.

Robert C. Fox, B.M./F.S.



Local 1393 members Will Breeden Sr. (left), Michael Breeden, Will Breeden Jr. and Jay Breeden.

## 2016 Presidential Election

L.U. 1501 (ees,em,mo,pet,rts&t), BALTIMORE, MD — Bus. Mgr./Pres. Dion F. Guthrie ran for delegate, in support of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, to the 2016 Democratic National Convention. The convention took place July 25-28 in Philadelphia. Bus. Mgr. Guthrie ran in Maryland's 2nd Congressional District, and he had enough votes, but the democratic process kept him from attending as a delegate due to various other factors.

Bus. Mgr. Guthrie has met with candidate Hillary Clinton on several occasions and was a delegate for Clinton at the 2008 Democratic Convention in Denver. He was pleased to have Clinton visit our members at the Goddard Space Flight Center a few years ago. She was impressed with the work our members are doing. "For decades, Hillary Clinton has demonstrated her commitment to fighting for labor unions in both deed and action," Bus. Mgr. Guthrie said. "She is a proven leader with a long record of working for everyday people and getting the job done. She has been a remarkable colleague and friend who I know and trust."

From voting rights, to health care, education, reforming our criminal justice system, eradicating poverty and helping the working men and women of our country, the need for a proven and time-tested leader is more clear today than ever before.

The basic American principle of equal treatment under law is in many ways still under attack. We need a leader who has stood up and spent time working on our behalf even when it wasn't popular. Clinton has used her life to fight for others and not just to make promises. For working families, minority communities, millennials and our seniors, there is too much at stake in this election to give it away. All of our unions will need Clinton in the White House.

Thomas J. Rostkowski, R.S.

## Tribute to a Life of Service Business Manager Mourned

L.U. 1505 (em), WALTHAM, MA — The officers, members and staff of Local 1505 are deeply saddened to announce the unexpected passing of then-Bus. Mgr. Dave Johnson.

Bro. Johnson passed away on July 10 as a result of complications after undergoing heart surgery. He was 58. Bro. Johnson had served as Local 1505 business manager since 2007. Before he became business manager, he served the local as a steward and assistant business manager.

Following Bro. Johnson's untimely death, the Local 1505 Executive Board appointed Harry Robbins as business manager to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

Bro. Dave Johnson's dedication to the IBEW and his commitment to the members of the Local 1505 will be sorely missed.

Harry Robbins, B.M.

## 'Happy Labor Day'

L.U. 1579 (i&o), AUGUSTA, GA — Always remember, Labor Day is the workers holiday and should never be treated as just another day. It should be celebrated in tribute with rest, relaxation, fellowship and time spent with your family. Local 1579's annual Labor Day barbecue is a great celebration with several hundred members and their families in attendance. It is always very nice to see the brotherhood

enjoy time together in fellowship and kindness.

The 2016 IBEW 39th International Convention takes place in St. Louis, MO, this month. Local 1579 will send three delegates to the September convention and they will represent the local well. Convention delegates also elect the leadership of the IBEW.

2016 is also a U.S. presidential election year. We will elect a president as well as our national, state and local leaders. The presidential election is very important this year, and every election year is important for organized labor. In our local, it could mean the difference between having an abundance of work or having very little work at all. This local has a total of five project labor agreements (PLAs), and we should support candidates who support PLAs and organized labor. Simply said, our Democratic nominee will continue to support organized labor and the Republican nominee will not.

Until next time, God bless.

Will Salters, B.M./F.S.

## Sea-3 Contract Ratified

L.U. 1837 (rtb&u), MANCHESTER, ME — Union members working at the Sea-3 Inc. propane terminal facility in Newington, NH, voted to ratify a two-year contract. The agreement will run through June 30, 2018.

All terms and conditions in the previous contract will continue without change. The 10 members of the IBEW Local 1837 bargaining unit will receive wage increases of 2½ percent each year of the contract.

Sea-3 has indicated that it has not been profitable in recent years. A proposed expansion of the Newington rail facility that could expand the work there has been put on hold by Sea-3's parent company, Trammo.

Local 1837 Bus. Mgr. Dick Rogers and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Tom Ryan appreciate the work of their fellow negotiating team members: chief steward Steve Paine and steward Al Newton.

"Our team felt going in that if we were able to secure a reasonable wage package, our members would be satisfied," Ryan said. "We're glad that we were able to maintain the rest of the contract as is. We hope that the company decides to complete their expansion plans to provide more work for our members in the future."

Matthew Beck, Organizer/B.R.



Sea-3 Inc. propane terminal facility employs Local 1837 members. (Photo by Sue Ekola.)

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# RETIREEES

## November 2016 Election

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 1, ST. LOUIS, MO — Hello from St. Louis. I hope everyone has enjoyed a good summer season.

We had our annual Retiree Golf Tournament in June. The weather, camaraderie and reminiscing were uplifting.

Check out the progress on the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis at website <https://nbew-ibewmuseum.org/index.php/2015-10-02-12-24-26/live-stream>.

Remind your family and friends to be sure they are registered to vote and informed for the November 2016 election. All the Republicans running for governor of Missouri vow to bring so-called "right to work" to the state. **[Editor's Note: To read more, see news article "What's at Stake in Missouri Governor's Race? Everything," on page 4 of this issue and posted on the IBEW website at [www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles](http://www.ibew.org/media-center/Articles).]**

The last two Local 1 Retirees Club meetings this year will be Sept. 28 (luncheon) and Nov. 16.

Neal McCormack, P.S.

## Great Summer Activities

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER — As of this writing, we're enjoying a wonderful summer in the New York/New Jersey area, as we continue our monthly meetings. So it's great to keep in touch with each other even during the summer months.

In May several members joined another group on a four-day bus tour of Washington, D.C., and the Baltimore Inner Harbor. It was a great trip and we had a wonderful time visiting our nation's capital!

Also in May, was our spring luncheon at Bolzano's Restaurant in Congers, NY, where we enjoyed great food and camaraderie along with the meeting led by Chmn. John McCormick.

We enjoyed our annual picnic at Conger's Lake in July. It was a great time getting together with everyone and enjoying the delicious, catered barbecued food and accompaniments! A great job done by those on the picnic detail!

A bus trip to Mohegan Sun was August's outing, and we're all looking forward to our September trip to the Educational Center in Cutchogue, NY.

Additional activity plans are in the works for the fall season!

John Krison, P.S.



Local 3, Northern New Jersey Chapter, Retirees Club tours Baltimore Inner Harbor.

## Catholic Council Breakfast

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 3, NEW YORK, NY, WESTCHESTER-PUTNAM CHAPTER — On Sunday, May 1, officers and members of the Westchester/Putnam Retirees Chapter attended the 81st Catholic Council of Electrical Workers Communion Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and the Communion Breakfast at the Sheraton New York Hotel in Manhattan.

Honored at the event as this year's "Man of the Year" was Local 3 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Paul Ryan. Paul became a member of IBEW former Local 501 in 1973 and served that local in many capacities including foreman, general foreman, business representative and treasurer. In 1993 then-Local 501 merged with Local 3. In 2008, Paul was appointed assistant business manager for the Westchester-Fairfield jurisdiction of Local 3.

Paul has been a great friend of the Westchester/Putnam Retirees Chapter since its inception, providing us access to the Local 3 headquarters to hold our monthly board and membership meetings. We appreciate all he does for us and we applaud the Catholic Council's choice of Paul as its 2016 "Man of the Year."

Dick Mills, P.S.



Local 3 Asst. Bus. Mgr. Paul Ryan displays award.

## 75-Year Service Pin Awarded

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 22, OMAHA, NE — It has been a long time since the club submitted an article. Since then, Local 22 has remodeled our meeting room and provided us with new padded chairs. A health reimbursement account was started for the retirees to draw upon for medical expenses not covered by insur-



Local 22 retired Bro. Phil Monaco receives 75-year pin, presented by Bus. Mgr. Barry Mayfield Jr.

ance. We thank the working members and officers of Local 22 for their support of the retirees.

We recently had a Years of Service Pin Dinner to honor our retirees. Fifty service award pins, ranging from 25- to 75-year pins, were presented. Our 75-year member, Bro. Phil Monaco, was unable to attend due to recent health problems; however, his pin was presented to him at a later date.

Our Retirees Club is working to increase its membership by specifically reaching out to the new retirees. A pamphlet describing the benefits of club membership has been designed. It will be given to members as they apply for retirement. Hopefully, our newer retirees will discover the fun to be had by joining us for good food, good friends and good conversation.

Chris Bayer, Pres.



Local 26 Retirees Club members and guests enjoy a Maryland crab feast in July.

## Club is Active & Growing

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 26, WASHINGTON, DC — Our club is growing and staying active.

In July, 100 members and their families attended Labor Night at the Washington Nationals baseball stadium. Although the Nationals lost, it was a great night of sisterhood and brotherhood!

Also in July, we had our annual bus trip to Annapolis to visit the Amish market and then traveled on for a Maryland crab feast!

If you like Maryland crabs, join us for our own annual crab feast on Oct. 8. If interested, please contact our press secretary by email at [flashmanbis-sell@aol.com](mailto:flashmanbis-sell@aol.com), or call 301-277-5923, for cost and location. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 1.

Congratulations to new Local 26 Bus. Mgr. George Hogan. We appreciate the local's continued support of our club's activities.

For our June cruise to the Caribbean Islands, we had over 60 people in our group!

Next year we plan to cruise in Europe with stops in Barcelona, Spain; Nice, France; Venice, Italy and elsewhere. Down payment of \$250 per person is due with the reservations. Please contact our travel coordinator, Rick Warner, at 240-472-0438.

In August we enjoyed the annual Local 26 picnic in Maryland.

Regular club meetings resume Sept. 10, at noon. Please stop by!

In August we held our annual raffle ticket mailing. With the mailing, we also sent information about the October crab feast to all members, working and retired. The raffle supports our club's medical equipment program for members.

Susan Flashman, P.S.

## Labor Day Tributes

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 35, HARTFORD, CT — As Labor Day approaches, we should all be grateful for the sacrifices our union brothers and sisters have made in the past. Their commitment and dedication have laid the foundation that allows us to provide for ourselves and our families with decent pay and benefits.

Congratulations to newly elected Local 35 officers: Bus. Mgr./Fin. Sec. Bruce Silva, Pres. William Moriarty, Vice Pres. Cameron Wood, Rec. Sec. Richard Bonadies and Treas. John Lurate. Also congratulations to re-elected Local 35 Executive Board members Kevin Czarnecki, Michael Nealy and Brian Woodhouse; and elected Examining Board members Curtis Dynak, Jonathan "Toby" Schnetzer and Timothy Schnetzer.

Thanks to Retirees Club Pres. Dennis Machol and retired member Charlie Rose for attending the Alliance for Retired Americans meetings. Their dedication and input are greatly appreciated.

Kenneth R. White, P.S.

## F.X. Matt Brewery Tour

RETIREEES CLUB OF L.U. 43, SYRACUSE, NY — About 12 Local 43 Retirees Club members from the Syracuse and Utica area attended a tour of the F.X. Matt Brewery, home of legendary Utica Club beer, on June 15. It was interesting to learn about the history of the second oldest brewery in the United States, and one that has employed our union brothers and sisters for many years. Our group toured the site for a couple of hours, and afterward enjoyed sampling some of the finest

brews to come out of the city of Utica. Shown in the accompanying photo is Retirees Club Pres. Dave Wierowski sitting at a tour center display desk "restoring order" at the F.X. Matt, Utica Club brewery.

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Local 43 Retirees Club Pres. Dave Wierowski holds court behind desk at F.X. Matt Brewery tour center in Utica, NY.

On July 9, before the start of the Local 43 clam-bake, members of the Retirees Club re-elected the current club officers. Continuing tradition, re-elected Retirees Club officers are: Pres. Dave Wierowski, Vice Pres. Fred Henecke, Rec. Sec. Jim Southard and Treas. Jim Pagano.

Local 43 Pres. Pat Costello was our guest speaker. He told us how he and Local 43 were involved in the relighting of the newly restored 'Utica Club' sign that now shines atop the F.X. Matt Brewing Co. The LED illuminated sign can be seen from all across Utica. It was an exciting moment when the switch was thrown to power up the sign.

Jim Corbett, P.S.

## Appreciation Plaques

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 60, SAN ANTONIO, TX — At the May 2016 meeting, those retiring as club officers were awarded appreciation plaques for their outstanding leadership over the years. Receiving plaques as outgoing officers were treasurer Bobby Wolff, vice president Tommy Huckelba, recording secretary Betty Cannon and president Gene Chamberlain, as well as Jenny Hall, for decorations.

The Sept. 8, 2016, meeting will be called to order under the guidance of newly elected club officers: Pres. Coy Rogers, Vice Pres. Tim James and Treas. Betty Cannon. As of press time the position of recording secretary was vacant. Our club's sergeant-at-arms is Don Nichols, and Executive Board members are John Farris, Al Reina, Owen Ray, Bob Hall and David Gonzalez.

In May, the Local 60 Retired Members Club held their annual Golf Tournament fundraiser at the Devine Golf Club. The event was another huge success. Congratulations to the first-place team members: John Gray, B. Gray, C. Lorenz and Larry Duke. Without the help and support of everyone involved, the fundraiser would not have been as successful. Thank you to all!

The Local 60 Retired Members Club meets the second Thursday of each month, except June, July and August, when we are off for summer vacations. Meetings are held at the Plumbers and Pipefitters training building, 3630 Belgium Lane, at 12 noon. After a short business meeting, lunch is served followed by 10 games of bingo. Local 60 retirees, please join us.

Sandy Rogers, P.S.

## Election of Officers

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 90, NEW HAVEN, CT — On June 7, the Local 90 Retirees Club held its last meeting of the current season. As we do every June, we held our election of officers at that meeting, followed by a pizza party.

Because we don't meet in the months of July

and August, our new year begins on Sept. 6, 2016, which is the date of our next scheduled meeting, at Two North Plains Industrial Rd., Wallingford, CT, at 1:30 p.m.

Retirees Club officers were all unanimously re-elected. Club officers are: Pres. Robert Mantovani, Sec.-Treas. Hugh McGuire and Vice Pres. Jerry Asplund.

We hope all IBEW members and their families had a safe and enjoyable summer.

Richard Launder, P.S.

## Breakfast & Fishing Trips

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 99, PROVIDENCE, RI — The Local 99 Retirees Club held its Annual May Breakfast on May 17, 2016, at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick, RI. The event was attended by 80 members.

Retirees Club Pres. Robert Pierce gave the invocation and prayer.

The retirees would like to thank Local 99 Bus. Mgr. Michael K. Daley, local union Pres. James Jackson and Local 99 for support in keeping the Retirees Club active. We also thank Kenny Marandola for organizing two fishing trips for this summer.

Local 99 retirees wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe season. See you in September.

Frank J. Colucci, P.S.



Attendees gather for a Local 124 Retirees Club luncheon.

## 'Let's Get Out & Vote!'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 124, KANSAS CITY, MO — The Local 124 Retirees Club met Wednesday, March 16, for the first luncheon of the year. Fifty-six retirees enjoyed barbecue, good fellowship and reminiscing. We thank club Pres. Dale Allen for stepping up and guiding the club for another year.

We invite all Local 124 retirees to join us in camaraderie. Tell old stories and make new ones. We recently enjoyed a successful game night at the Retirees Hall, and we have four luncheons a year. Our June 15 potluck luncheon was also a great success. Come join us!

We are grateful to have an active Ladies Auxiliary. The ladies meet at 9:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month to play cards. All newly retired members' spouses are welcome to join in. We thank the ladies for their help in making our luncheons enjoyable events.

The Retirees Club is making a special effort to support several Local 124 members running for state and local office this year. We have members running in both Missouri and Kansas. The club is honored to

have a retired Local 124 member, Missouri Rep. Joe Runions, serving in the state legislature. Let's all get out and vote for elected officials who support our issues and values. Some members don't drive anymore and may need a lift to the polls.

The Retirees board is always open for suggestions for future activities.

Thanks to Local 124 officers for supporting our Retirees Club.

Ken Starr, P.S.

## Honored for Longtime Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 134, CHICAGO, IL — Summer is nearly over, but here in Chicago we look forward to our changing seasons.

As of press time, Local 134 has plans to move from its home at 600 W. Washington Blvd., to the former Drake Elementary School building at 2722 S. Martin Luther King Blvd. in Chicago. Local 134 Bus. Mgr. Donald Finn said the newly purchased building is a "perfect fit." This move will bring greater opportunities for the membership. As of press time, the relocation was planned for late 2016.

At our June 8 Retirees Club meeting, we honored club members who have 50-, 55-, 60-, 65-, and 70 years with the IBEW. A delicious catered lunch was served, and singer Mary Anne Riehl provided entertainment. Among honorees present were: Tony Filippello, Frank Markiewicz, Robert Haas, Roy Murray, Fred Seidel, Jack O'Keefe, Charles Sembenini, Ralph Spears, Leroy Herrick, Walter Felde, Richard Folen, James Tregay, Richard Polyak, Paul Somerstorfer, Vincent Passi, Ralph Massett and John Klus.

The Annual Memorial Day gathering was held May 30 at Mount Emblem Cemetery to honor veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. Sadly, the Local 134 retiree who for years represented our Retiree Club at this event was no longer with us. We lost Bro. Vito Alberotanza in April. Vito was a Local 134 E-Board member for 20 years. His is dearly missed.

Please get out and vote on Nov. 8! Our unions, our wages and our benefits depend on it.

Sue Kleczka, P.S.

## 'Expect Respect' & Vote

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 212, CINCINNATI, OH — With sorrow, I report the passing of several IBEW brothers: Ralph Stalf, who had 60 years of IBEW service; Gerald Smith, 47 years of service; Michael Malott, 46 years' service; George Evers, 38 years'; and James Harney, 25 years' service. May God grant them eternal rest.

Neither transparent nor sensible campaign financing rules exist following the 2010 Supreme Court's "Citizens United vs. FEC" decision, which allows unlimited campaign spending by big money corporate interests. Money is power — and right-wing conservative foes of working people use this power to blatantly discredit unions and workers.



Local 291 retirees and families enjoy summer fun at the picnic.

Anti-worker puppet candidates depend on billion-aires' dark money. We cannot match this "legalized bribe money," nor undo the lies it produces.

These calculating bullies call us "un-American, unpatriotic, socialist." Really? We have served, fought, and lost loved ones in the military. We volunteer at churches, schools, hospitals, Habitat for Humanity projects, food pantries, etc. We are guilty of being well-trained, hard-working, law-abiding, tax-paying citizens of every community. We want a piece of the pie, and we expect fairness and respect. Why vote for someone who doesn't respect you?

Stacking the Supreme Court with right-wing ideologues could happen, and that would be disastrous for us. Don't take the bait of the wedge-issues. Vote as if your future depends on it, because it does.

Bob Schaefer, P.S.

## Tribute to Life of Service

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 257, JEFFERSON CITY, MO — Our Retirees Club enjoyed the luncheon/meeting at the Lion's Club in Hartsburg, MO, on June 28. We had a great turnout. Several members had good summer gardens (even with all the rain and heat) and brought in produce to share.

The club had a busy summer. Juanita Fischer has been lining up a trip to a show at the Lake of the Ozarks for September, and a few more trips for the fall. Attendees enjoyed the Local 257 annual picnic on Aug. 3. The Labor Day parade will be Sept. 10.

I am saddened to report that member John L. Sullivan passed away in May. He will be dearly missed by all. John was 92. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, as a bombardier/navigator with the 93rd Bombardment Group of the 2nd Air Division in England. He retired as a major from the Army Reserves in 1985. For his service, he was awarded the French Legion of Honor medal. John was a member of Local 257 for 74 years. He taught apprentice electricians and conducted electrical code classes for many years. The local apprenticeship training center is named in his honor. Our thoughts and prayers go to his wife, Bee, and his entire family.

Congratulations to Local 257 Bus. Mgr. Don Bruemmer on his re-election. We look forward to continue working with him for another three-year term.

Delores Melloway, P.S.

## Summer Picnic

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 291, BOISE, ID — We had a beautiful, warm day for our summer retirees' potluck picnic, with a good turnout. Our president, Greg Oyama, manned the barbecue while the retirees visited together and caught up with one another, discussing their plans for the summer season.

Ken Penn, P.S.

## RETIREES

## Sarnia Happenings

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 530, SARNIA, ONTARIO, CANADA — For this article, I wish to write about Local 530 retired member Tom Coates and his wife, Cathy.

Tom joined Local 530 in 1971 and retired in 2012. He spent his entire working life in and around Sarnia and Lambton County. Tom and Cathy have been married for 40 years and have two grown daughters. Tom's father, the late Tom Coates Sr., was also a Local 530 member, who joined the IBEW in the early 1950s and retired in 1974; he continued to work as a consultant for Dow Chemical for some time after.

Cathy joined our Retirees Club with Tom when he retired. She graduated as a registered nurse in 1977. Since joining our club, Cathy has been an avid organizer of our activities, putting together two riverboat cruises aboard the Duc d'Orleans to the River Crab restaurant in St. Clair, MI, for dinner. She also planned four successful outings for lunch at Purdy's Fisheries in Point Edward, for the catch of the day from Lake Huron. Cathy, we appreciate all you do on our behalf.

Since March, we have lost four Retirees Club members: John Weeke, Frank Dechet, Bob Smith and Jake DeJong. Our condolences go out to their families.

Nancy Stinson Philbin, P.S.



Local 530 Retirees Club members Cathy Coates and Tom Coates.

## 'Awesome Opportunities'

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 595, DUBLIN, CA — Hello from sunny California! Exciting times are ahead for the IBEW as we prepare to celebrate our IBEW International Convention in St. Louis, and to elect a new U.S. president in November. The economy out West is definitely on an upswing, with the union hall empty and cranes at work everywhere in the Bay Area.

Our Retirees Club enjoyed lots of summer activities, including our annual 595 Day at the A's Baseball Game, where Bus. Mgr. Dan Chivello surprised everyone by proposing to his girlfriend on the big screen at the game. That got a big roar from the crowd. Congratulations, Dan!

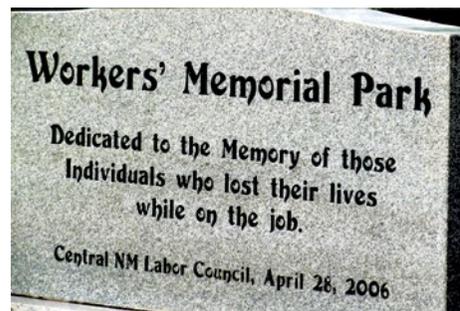
Our retirees annual summer barbeque was held at the Fremont Elks Lodge. The union picnic was at a new venue, the Pleasanton Fairgrounds. And we've enjoyed many fun day trips.

Our 10-day cruise to Alaska departs Sept. 8. Our four-day trip to Las Vegas in November is accepting sign-ups. Lots of awesome opportunities to meet

fellow retirees and make new friends. Our monthly themed lunches are the second Friday of every month, at the union hall in Dublin, 11 a.m. We have a short meeting and happy hour prior to our catered lunch, all for 10 bucks, and the first lunch is on us. Sign up to join the club or just come by for a test drive.

Please get out and vote in November! Support candidates who believe in unions, families, and the right to bargain for fair and honest wages and benefits.

Tom Mullarkey, P.S.



Memorial marker at Workers Memorial Park in Albuquerque, NM.

## Retirees Going Strong

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 611, ALBUQUERQUE, NM — We're still going strong with events and projects.

The University of New Mexico interviewed several Local 611 members to collect stories about their past work experiences for a labor history project.

We are still helping with food distribution to needy families once a month.

On April 28, approximately 35-40 members from IBEW Local 611, participated in the annual Workers Memorial Day event at Workers Memorial Park in Albuquerque. Central New Mexico Labor Council Pres. Santos Griego, Local 611 assistant business manager and dispatcher, was master of ceremonies.

Workers Memorial Day is observed internationally to remember and honor workers who have died or been injured on the job. Let's never forget those before us who helped make the unions and our lives what they are today.

In May, several Local 611 retirees and working members attended the annual Rank & File Banquet sponsored by the Central New Mexico CLC. At the banquet, certificates were presented to union members who have notably supported the labor movement.

The Central New Mexico CLC installed a memorial marker, a park bench and a tree in tribute to workers. If you haven't participated in the Workers Memorial Day event, it's never too late to start. As the saying goes, "I'm too old to be young and too young to be old."

We extend condolences to the families of Local 611 members who recently passed away: Jose L Crespin, Robert B. Chavez, Joseph L. Erb, Felix C. Marquez, Nevin P. Scott and Thomas E. Martinez Sr.

Tracy Hall, Pres.

## 70-Year Award Honoree

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 640, PHOENIX, AZ — Our eight-month breakfast schedule concluded in May, resuming Oct. 21. Our club takes a break for the summer months.

The May election of Retirees Club officers resulted in no change in the board; however, we did fill a vacated post when Don Shaw volunteered for the position. Don is also the keeper of the memorial to our deceased brothers.

In mid-May, Local 640 held their annual picnic, which featured a service-pin ceremony. It was great to see many of our club members receive awards. The star of the show was Bernarr "Barney" Broeder, who was awarded his 70-year pin. Barney and his wife, Charlotte, are regulars at our meetings, and it is always a pleasure to re-live the "old days" of work in the electrical field. Pushing the mid-90s is not an easy task, but they handle it well, and still drive. Last year Barney and Charlotte drove back to Chicago to visit relatives. I jokingly asked Barney, "All those older than you?" He just smiled and replied, "Some are!" Then he flashed me a glint from the diamond set into his service pin!

Our board is trying new ways to increase our membership. We are instituting easier ways to communicate with us, and expediting ordering meals for the breakfast meetings. Details will be included in our October newsletter.

Daryl Knupp, P.S.



Local 640 retired Bro. Bernarr Broeder and his wife, Charlotte, at service pin ceremony.

## Luncheon at Rend Lake

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 702, WEST FRANKFORT, IL — The Retirees Club met on June 2 at Bennie's Italian Restaurant in Marion, IL, at 11:45 a.m. A motion was made to skip the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, which was seconded and approved. The Financial Report was read, followed by a motion and second to approve, which carried. Lunch orders were taken and the meeting resumed.

Under old business, it was reported that the April 6 Retirees Luncheon at Rend Lake was a great success and the meal was outstanding. A big "thank-you" to IBEW Local 702 Bus. Mgr. Steve Hughart and

the local staff was recorded.

Under new business, it was announced that the DuQuoin State Fair is coming up soon and the Retirees Club is seeking volunteers. Jim Nolen, Dave Cosimi and Jr. Marlow committed to helping. Fair dates will be confirmed at the next meeting.

The meeting was suspended for the meal and subsequently resumed.

Deaths for the months of March through June this year were read, with a moment of silence for all.

In the drawing, Roger Stilley won \$33. The total deposit of \$168 for membership dues and 50/50 money was announced.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mark Baker, P.S.

## Benefit Fundraiser a Success

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 804, KITCHENER, ONTARIO, CANADA — Since our last article for the Electrical Worker, Ken Woods, our Retirees Club president since the club's inception, had to resign due to health issues. Bro. Woods formerly served with distinction as an IBEW First District international vice president. Our good wishes and thanks to Ken for all his years of great leadership.

Our club continues to interact with other clubs from Ontario. We enjoy trips to the theatre to see live performances, such as this summer to St. Jacobs. We host Oktoberfest celebrations in Kitchener, and other clubs join us. Our members also volunteer at Habitat for Humanity.

We have a guest speaker at most of our meetings. Speakers have provided information on topics including: political action, preparing family members for retirement homes, assistance with hearing aids, workers comp, first-aid, CPR, AED training, financial planning, wills, power of attorney, etc.

Last year an apprentice, James Wyllie, tragically lost his life on the job and left behind a 15-month old daughter, Charlotte. At the suggestion of member Ralph Roussel, our club took on a fundraiser for Charlotte.

We are proud to announce that our members donated \$6,415 to go toward young Charlotte's education fund. Also, a retired member, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered to donate a small monthly pension he was receiving from a Detroit local.

Jerry Wilson, P.S.

## Annual Luncheon

RETIREES CLUB OF L.U. 995, BATON ROUGE, LA — We had our Annual Retirees Club Luncheon, with spouses invited, the first Monday in June. Each member was to bring a dish, and the food was great as always. With some of the local staff attending, we had about 60 participating this year.

It is with regret that I report the recent loss of several of our retirees: Donald G. Burns, John Darryl Hargis, Peter Constantino, Clarence Pourciau and Alvin Broussard. Our brothers will be missed.

W. Roland Goetzman Sr., P.S.



Local 595 members enjoyed their annual Day at the Oakland A's Baseball Game.



Attendees enjoy Local 995 Retirees Club annual luncheon.

# In Memoriam

## Members for Whom PBF Death Claims were Approved in July 2016

Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death	Local	Surname	Date of Death
1	Dusin, J. W.	6/6/16	35	Welch, J. J.	5/8/16	113	Ridenour, T. H.	5/15/16	294	Dearholt, J. C.	4/14/16	449	Jensen, L. E.	6/4/16
1	Kitchen, L. D.	6/10/16	38	Bratton, H. H.	6/23/16	117	Weber, J. P.	12/23/14	295	Hughes, E. G.	2/4/16	456	Mahn, J. C.	6/21/16
1	Lopinot, D. W.	6/4/16	38	Gordon, J. A.	6/4/16	120	Allen, J.	5/29/16	301	Siple, K. W.	5/8/16	477	Mummery, W. G.	6/26/16
1	Mason, W. A.	4/24/16	38	Hale, F. M.	6/9/16	124	Johnson, J. R.	5/3/16	301	Sullivan, W. A.	4/30/16	477	Smith, R. E.	1/23/16
1	Mikolay, M. A.	1/26/15	38	Hrnyak, K. R.	6/27/16	125	Moran, M. L.	4/20/16	303	Mowers, M. L.	5/30/16	479	Lout, S. L.	4/3/16
1	White, D. W.	6/23/16	38	Leary, T. P.	5/29/16	125	Van Ness, P. L.	6/20/16	309	Brown, J. M.	5/16/16	479	McCleary, J. L.	4/4/14
2	Blankenship, C. E.	5/25/16	38	Minch, J. E.	5/27/16	126	Kaczmarek, T. S.	6/21/16	309	Deibert, C. W.	5/28/16	481	Eakins, J. L.	7/2/16
3	Abramowitz, M.	5/12/16	41	Eager, G. R.	6/23/16	126	Kubitz, C. J.	6/9/16	313	Burton, R.	5/7/16	481	Hamm, G. S.	6/11/16
3	Austin, R. E.	1/28/16	41	Klier, N. H.	5/29/16	127	Frederich, H. E.	4/17/16	317	James, F. E.	4/13/16	481	Justus, J. W.	5/27/14
3	Bourekas, J.	5/31/16	41	McArdle, K. M.	6/21/16	127	Ogle, R. L.	11/24/15	318	Bowman, B. R.	1/21/16	494	Abel, G. C.	6/18/16
3	Careccia, J. D.	5/27/16	43	Birnie, H.	1/23/16	130	Berlier, D. J.	5/2/16	322	Amburn, L. N.	7/13/14	494	Drake, G. K.	6/12/16
3	Crowley, J. D.	6/10/16	43	Lindsey, T. C.	6/14/16	134	Baldwin, C. C.	6/7/16	325	Donson, H. A.	5/13/16	494	Strande, D. K.	6/20/16
3	Maynas, G. W.	6/6/16	43	Yerdon, R. W.	6/23/16	134	Buchholz, H. E.	6/12/16	325	Duffy, T. F.	6/26/16	499	Eckhoff, E. F.	5/1/16
3	Duffy, R. W.	5/4/16	44	Mizell, B. W.	6/17/16	134	Buettner, E. F.	6/8/16	326	Cote, P. W.	1/14/16	499	Roth, W. P.	4/21/16
3	Filingeri, J. M.	5/23/16	46	Berget, O.	6/9/16	134	Calloway, J.	6/18/16	329	Coile, J. I.	6/22/16	502	Donaldson, G. F.	5/28/16
3	Fiore, J. J.	5/16/16	46	Hutchinson, R. R.	6/24/16	134	Giannakopoulos, G.	5/29/16	332	Davis, J. R.	6/5/16	502	MacCollum, W. J.	6/30/16
3	Johannessen, R. J.	5/18/16	46	Jorgensen, O.	6/23/16	134	Johnson, C. H.	1/5/16	332	Garcia, R. S.	4/16/16	508	Kessler, C. O.	5/15/16
3	LaDuca, J. P.	1/19/16	46	Lecher, L. D.	3/22/16	134	Korpus, M. J.	4/24/16	332	Pedretti, W. L.	5/7/16	518	Aston, M. S.	6/12/16
3	Leone, C. J.	5/23/16	46	Loving, K. E.	4/25/16	134	Kudrna, D. L.	1/8/16	332	Pukl, H. G.	4/13/16	518	Simpson, R. R.	5/14/16
3	Lia, F. J.	6/8/16	46	Syversen, S.	7/18/15	134	Luby, T. M.	5/30/16	332	Thureson, W.	5/30/16	518	Winfrey, J. B.	5/9/16
3	Mariani, E.	6/12/16	46	Valaske, G. A.	6/19/16	134	Marquez, P.	6/28/16	340	Duering, W. W.	5/22/16	529	Bodner, M. R.	6/6/16
3	Marsigliano, J. M.	2/22/16	46	White, T. T.	5/29/16	134	Mecklenburg, P. R.	4/30/16	340	Walter, D. C.	3/21/16	530	Smith, R. D.	5/4/16
3	Maynard, J. H.	5/12/16	47	Ryssman, D. M.	4/2/16	134	Napolitano, E. F.	6/17/16	347	Hager, R. D.	5/11/16	553	Allen, P. D.	4/18/16
3	McNamara, M.	3/5/16	48	Denson, S. W.	6/2/16	134	O'Connell, M. J.	4/20/16	349	Sarama, R. P.	1/16/16	558	Adams, J. D.	5/19/16
3	Miller, H. S.	5/30/16	48	Haliski, W. K.	6/21/16	134	Oelkers, A. A.	6/27/16	351	Batt, J. D.	5/11/16	558	Beavers, J. I.	6/5/16
3	Murphy, R.	6/9/16	48	Johnson, G. L.	4/18/16	134	Olson, B. A.	5/1/16	351	Krautwald, J. F.	7/11/14	558	Kimbrough, B. P.	4/24/16
3	Nappi, A. H.	4/16/16	48	McClenahan, R. L.	5/31/16	134	Olson, R. E.	6/10/16	351	Maden, E.	6/16/16	558	Speegle, T. L.	4/30/16
3	O'Connor, E. P.	7/3/15	48	Windsor, C. A.	5/31/16	134	Ramanauskas, G. V.	6/16/16	353	Ackroyd, G. F.	6/1/16	568	Beattie, A. N.	6/14/16
3	Patrick, E. J.	6/18/16	51	Darling, R. L.	6/20/16	134	Ramsey, R. L.	5/28/16	353	Bielmeier, W.	6/1/16	569	Menegos, D. M.	5/30/14
3	Petrynyak, J. R.	5/13/16	51	Mason, B. E.	5/12/16	134	Rauen, P. J.	6/20/16	353	Deeder, J. H.	5/27/16	576	Paulk, A. R.	5/20/16
3	Piazza, D. M.	4/19/16	51	Smith, R. W.	6/13/16	134	Schultz, J. H.	5/30/16	353	Digby, A. K.	4/15/16	601	Chambers, M.	6/24/16
3	Ryan, A.	5/29/16	51	Wilson, T. L.	6/1/16	134	Smith, D. A.	4/19/16	353	Farrell, D. C.	5/31/16	602	Johnson, L. P.	5/19/16
3	Simonello, J. P.	5/30/16	58	Ballard, B. E.	5/22/16	134	Smola, R.	5/30/16	353	Gallant, L.	5/18/16	607	Bassett, M. C.	7/7/15
3	Sullivan, J. M.	6/2/16	58	Bilot, W. J.	6/1/16	134	Thieme, W. E.	5/19/16	353	Hill, J. P.	9/17/15	613	Caldwell, R. E.	6/16/16
5	Branthoover, H. E.	5/31/16	58	Hupfer, A. J.	6/3/16	134	Van Nieuwenhuysse, J.	5/11/16	354	Brunker, D. L.	6/9/16	613	Lawson, D. C.	6/25/16
5	Eger, T. W.	5/30/16	58	Kunnath, R. A.	6/26/16	136	Bowman, J. L.	5/14/16	357	Feeley, A. T.	5/1/16	613	McDaniel, B. W.	12/22/14
5	Elias, J. P.	4/30/16	58	Rickard, A.	6/20/16	136	Hannah, C.	3/10/16	357	Garcia, A. N.	6/11/16	613	Oberkofler, R.	6/2/16
5	Jeter, R. G.	5/22/16	66	Overbeck, E. D.	5/18/16	143	Overcash, D. R.	6/2/16	357	LaBonte, P. B.	3/24/16	613	Walton, E. C.	6/6/16
5	Mikesell, W. K.	2/29/16	68	Luff, G. E.	4/24/16	146	Truxell, H. R.	5/18/16	357	Ogilvie, R. H.	6/29/16	625	Ripley, J. W.	5/28/16
5	Sciullo, A.	2/14/16	70	Stuckey, R. H.	7/8/16	150	Geary, R. C.	4/17/16	357	Reno, G. J.	4/8/16	639	Lawall, M. A.	6/9/16
5	Witzberger, C. T.	4/8/16	70	Tillman, G. H.	4/17/16	150	Hatch, M. C.	2/17/16	357	Scott, C. R.	3/1/16	640	Barnes, G. R.	6/20/16
6	Beatty, J. W.	4/30/16	71	Coleman, F. E.	12/14/14	160	Binman, B. D.	7/28/14	357	Sedeno, A.	5/21/16	640	Brewer, M. C.	6/15/16
6	Lyras, S. L.	4/7/16	72	Hurst, W. A.	6/1/16	164	Herdman, J. F.	6/3/16	357	Warden, M.	4/1/16	640	Goodman, J. L.	5/19/16
6	Wallace, G. L.	4/30/16	73	Blacketer, R. D.	6/1/16	164	Hoffnagle, E. V.	6/10/16	363	Asam, F.	6/12/16	640	Hays, D. D.	5/18/16
7	Arsenault, E. J.	3/3/14	76	Lawson, A. B.	6/10/16	164	Kuiken, D. K.	5/25/16	363	Gulley, D. G.	3/13/16	640	Hughes, R. L.	6/21/16
7	Bennett, H. R.	11/20/14	77	Elbersen, W. A.	6/5/16	164	Meyer, F. C.	5/4/16	363	Guzzi, S. C.	5/8/16	649	Scroggins, P. M.	5/23/16
8	Garrison, M. D.	4/25/16	77	Floyd, E. M.	3/22/16	175	Ewton, C. D.	5/21/16	363	Hart, A. L.	11/29/15	649	Snider, W. E.	5/7/16
8	Harrington, H. R.	6/14/16	77	Semanko, K. L.	6/2/16	177	Hammond, R.	5/27/16	363	Onderdonk, E. L.	6/1/16	654	Marcello, N. J.	5/26/16
8	Reid, P. A.	10/16/14	82	Cherry, D. M.	5/25/16	177	Larkin, J. W.	12/31/15	363	Richard, G. J.	5/27/16	659	May, B. A.	6/20/16
9	Sladek, W. R.	5/23/16	84	Welch, C. E.	6/16/16	177	Roberson, D. K.	4/19/16	364	Dull, W. J.	5/27/16	659	Truly, J.	5/28/16
9	Tucknott, A. K.	5/27/16	86	McKie, W. A.	7/8/16	191	Manier, D. G.	12/29/15	365	Jacobs, W. H.	6/9/16	666	Lingerfelt, B. M.	6/26/16
11	Breilein, J. F.	4/17/16	95	Haase, D. C.	12/26/14	191	Watt, J. L.	3/12/15	369	Brewer, S. J.	6/10/16	697	Straka, K. J.	6/12/16
11	Edwards, L. A.	6/2/16	96	Pimsri, V. K.	6/26/15	193	Larson, K. M.	6/3/16	369	Frye, D. K.	5/26/16	700	McNelly, C. L.	10/16/15
11	Johnson, V. C.	6/10/16	97	West, R. T.	6/29/16	193	Vincent, T. L.	6/24/16	369	Graves, L. D.	4/28/16	701	Able, H. S.	6/9/16
11	Manriquez, P.	5/22/16	98	Argondizza, F. A.	4/24/16	196	Skeffington, M. B.	5/27/16	369	Heil, W. C.	5/12/14	701	Hardisty, A. R.	1/23/16
11	Shuffield, S. E.	10/19/15	98	Gabriel, W. F.	1/27/16	212	Evers, G. H.	6/23/16	369	Moore, T. L.	5/18/16	714	Guillen, H.	5/27/16
12	Carver, K. D.	6/19/16	98	Hoelzle, R. L.	6/8/16	212	Harney, J. C.	5/1/16	369	Pearson, H. D.	5/14/16	715	Lersch, R. D.	5/28/16
15	Sturdy, L. G.	6/21/16	98	McMillion, J. A.	6/12/16	212	Stalf, R. H.	5/19/16	375	Bilsak, W. J.	6/15/16	716	Beheler, J. C.	5/21/16
16	Hancock, D. M.	3/17/16	98	Wean, B. W.	3/12/16	213	Chippendale, D. R.	11/20/15	379	Hensley, E. R.	3/9/16	716	Blankenship, G. L.	5/5/16
16	Mayer, E. W.	4/12/16	98	Wolf, N.	5/19/16	213	Smith, G.	3/31/16	379	Self, D. S.	6/14/16	716	Farago, H. E.	3/29/16
17	Olechnowicz, G.	5/26/16	99	Cote, K. A.	9/25/14	213	Vlasik, W. M.	12/31/15	379	Williams, R. E.	6/19/16	716	Lederer, F. A.	10/23/14
17	Sigouin, R. J.	5/20/16	99	Lanni, M.	6/24/16	213	Wilson, R. A.	11/12/14	386	Carter, J. A.	6/28/16	716	Logan, J. V.	4/24/16
18	Alvarez, H.	12/10/15	99	Ryan, T. H.	3/23/16	222	Hill, J. T.	5/18/10	400	Riebel, R. E.	5/13/16	716	Starr, D. R.	12/23/15
18	Patchen, W. J.	5/30/16	100	Galley, J. C.	6/8/16	222	Johnson, E. F.	5/27/16	400	Shwahla, P.	11/23/14	716	Whelock, S. A.	1/31/16
20	Henson, K. A.	5/31/16	100	Green, E. L.	6/6/14	223	Patenaude, E. H.	5/28/16	401	Brown, J. C.	5/23/16	728	Bryant, C. E.	5/25/16
20	Johnson, L. R.	3/19/16	100	Turner, L. M.	5/19/16	236	Montie, S. A.	5/1/16	402	Rogalla, A.	5/12/16	728	McIntosh, J. B.	6/18/16
21	Socall, J. W.	2/11/16	102	Duenas, E. M.	10/22/15	236	Stevens, R. J.	5/17/16	413	Whisenhant, E. A.	5/29/16	728	Pierson, C. K.	4/18/16
22	Sullivan, C. E.	5/5/16	102	Kisner, S. M.	7/5/14	238	Medford, G. T.	4/9/16	415	Oliger, A. J.	12/11/14	728	Prahl, S. B.	6/7/16
22	Wilcox, K. L.	2/19/16	102	Saffioti, J. R.	6/28/15	245	Cowley, R. C.	6/14/16	418	Lyon, C. B.	12/25/15	738	May, J. D.	6/30/16
24	Olah, J. E.	5/25/16	103	Curley, J. R.	6/30/14	245	Mongeau, J.	5/16/16	424	Cooper, T.	5/18/16	743	Field, R. W.	6/14/16
24	Schnell, J. C.	5/23/16	103	Donnelly, B. M.	5/19/16	246	Shaffer, W. C.	7/1/16	424	Dieckmann, G. N.	6/14/16	743	Frill, J. J.	6/4/16
25	Audevart, J. N.	4/30/16	103	Maloney, W. A.	5/10/16	258	Simpson, R. P.	5/13/16	424	Gottstein, E.	6/3/16	760	Duncan, C. L.	4/1/16
25	Beekman, J. P.	5/5/16	103	Nigro, J. W.	6/2/16	265	Parker, W. L.	5/13/16	424	Lasic, D. D.	5/28/16	760	England, J. E.	5/11/16
26	Bennett, J. E.	6/8/16	103	Robblee, J. H.	4/27/16	266	Duke, M. E.	4/24/16	424	Salonen, B. W.	6/8/16	760	Minton, J. T.	5/14/16
26	Bourne, E. D.	6/6/16	103	Schneider, J. A.	5/3/16	269	Beach, H. B.	3/1/16	424	Wilson, L. D.	5/3/16	760	Rankin, D. A.	6/17/16
26	Glumac, M. J.	5/16/16	104	Laue, J. M.	5/19/16	269	Clugsten, D. T.	5/18/16	429	Baker, B. D.	6/27/16	768	Overholtzer, R. A.	5/26/16
26	Heflin, W. H.	11/29/15	105	Lamont, N. R.	4/24/16	269	Santora, J. C.	5/14/16	429	Cook, G. E.	4/11/16	776	Turner, J. R.	11/20/14
26	Karavangelos, L. T.	5/23/16	110	Decker, R. R.	5/14/16	269	Warner, W. R.	2/23/14	429	Harris, H. T.	5/13/16	816		



## FROM THE OFFICERS

## At the IBEW's 39<sup>th</sup> Convention, Shaping Our Destiny



**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

**F**or our 39th convention, we return to our hometown, the Gateway City of St. Louis. Over the course of the week, we'll get to see our brothers and sisters from across the U.S. and Canada, share stories and pins, and choose the direction of this great union.

When the IBEW was founded 125 years ago, horses and buggies traversed the streets and the telephone was in its infancy. While we will walk those same streets with smartphones in our pockets, much of what we do during the convention will have echoes of those early days. As our founder Henry Miller knew at the turn of the last century, the rights of working people are not freely given. We must continue this fight together.

We have grown from a handful of members into a 725,000-strong Brotherhood. It wasn't easy, but we did it anyway because we know that we are stronger together. As we look to the future, we need to think about how we can organize the next worksite, recruit the next contractor and grow our union further, fulfilling Miller's goal of organizing every electrical worker.

Five years ago when we met in Vancouver, we were still coming out of the Great Recession. It was a tough time, but we didn't give up. We got bolder in our organizing. We grew our construction branch and welcomed new members from tree trimmers to satellite installers. We committed ourselves wholeheartedly to the Code of Excellence, demonstrating our commitment to professionalism and doing the best possible work.

We will elect our leadership at the convention, and rightly expect much from them. But it is the duty of every one of us to stand in solidarity, collectively, to do all we can to protect and expand our rights. We are all in this together.

This is when we determine how we will work for shared prosperity and a stronger voice on the job. This is when we set the course for our future, brothers and sisters. It's our responsibility.

This is when we, as a union, forge the next 125 years and determine what our legacy will be. ■

## This Year, Down Ballot Races Are Key

**T**he presidential election is dominating news coverage and will continue to do so. That's what happens every four years.

But brothers and sisters, the races further down the ballot just might be more important. They'll determine the future of this union.

Think that's an overstatement? Well, consider this. Gubernatorial elections in Missouri, Montana and New Hampshire will decide if they become right-to-work states.

The Republican nominee in Missouri supports right-to-work and will have overwhelming GOP majorities in the statehouse. That's why IBEW members are working hard to elect Democratic nominee Chris Koster, who has a record of supporting working families.

In Montana, the National Right to Work Committee and other far-right groups have been pouring money into the GOP-controlled state legislature. But Gov. Steve Bullock has held firm. He continually says no to right-to-work. He's up for re-election and IBEW members have his back.

New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan is a friend to working families and she's running for a Senate seat. IBEW members are working hard on her behalf there, too. But many state legislators clamor for a right-to-work law. We must ensure her replacement is someone with the strength to fight back.

We know wages fall when right-to-work legislation is signed. Other measures to punish unions, such as repealing prevailing wage laws, soon follow.

We also face critical governor's races in Indiana, North Carolina and West Virginia. We must elect state legislators who support our cause. The right-to-work movement gained steam because conservative legislatures around the country increasingly take orders from the notoriously anti-union American Legislative Exchange Council, known as ALEC. That has to stop.

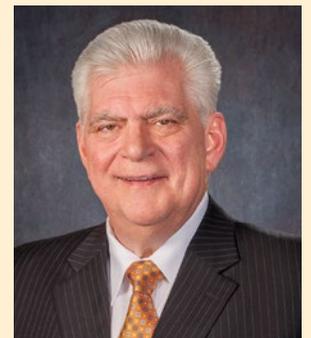
The fight isn't just in state capitals. There are 33 Senate seats up for grabs. The Supreme Court has chipped away at workers' rights for most of the last 40 years. It is critical we elect a Senate that will confirm justices who recognize that unions have a seat at the table.

Laws to protect our rights on the job mean little without a strong National Labor Relations Board. We must elect senators who will confirm NLRB members concerned with working families. We've got real chances to do that in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

This is not a debate about parties or personalities. In Missouri and other states, our members are working to re-elect GOP legislators who have voted against right-to-work and the repeal of prevailing wage legislation. We'll support politicians from across the spectrum who show a commitment to good jobs.

This election isn't just about individual candidates. It's a referendum on your job, your union and the overall health of the middle class.

And when union members vote, all working families win. We can't afford to sit this one out. ■



**Salvatore J. Chilia**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

*The Electrical Worker* was the name of the first official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 1893 (the NBEW became the IBEW in 1899 with the expansion of the union into Canada). The name and format of the publication have changed over the years. This newspaper is the official publication of the IBEW and seeks to capture the courage and spirit that motivated the founders of the Brotherhood and continue to inspire the union's members today. The masthead of this newspaper is an adaptation of that of the first edition in 1893.

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**William W. Riley**

Third District  
**Donald C. Siegel**

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**Lonnie R. Stephenson**  
International President

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**Michael Walter**

Fourth District  
**Kenneth Cooper**

**Salvatore J. Chilia**  
International Secretary-Treasurer

Sixth District  
**Chris J. Wagner**

Fifth District  
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**Mark Brueggjenhann**

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**John J. O'Rourke**

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**Curtis E. Henke**

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**Michael Pointer**

**Rix Oakland**



### HOW TO REACH US

We welcome letters from our readers. The writer should include his or her name, address and, if applicable, IBEW local union number and card number. Family members should include the local union number of the IBEW member to whom *The Electrical Worker* is mailed. Please keep letters as brief as possible. *The Electrical Worker* reserves the right to select letters for publication and edit all submissions for length.

### Send letters to:

Letters to the Editor, *The Electrical Worker*, 900 Seventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Or send by email to: [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org)

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## “LETTERS TO THE EDITOR”

### IBEW's Trump Investigation

Thanks for the excellent article in the August issue on Trump's business practices, "Does Trump Build Union: An IBEW Investigation," that supplied a lot of useful facts as well as a behind-the-scenes look at two IBEW business managers from different regions, teaming together. I posted a link to it on Facebook that many people shared, which meant to me that — while they "knew" this economic argument, they were glad to get evidence to back up their case.

*Susan Eisenberg, Local 103 retiree  
Boston*

### Saluting Another Trailblazer

In reference to the August Electrical Worker feature "Trailblazer Still Opening Doors for Others," I would like to say kudos to Jeri Porter. I have worked the same jobs as the Porters in the past and known them since the late '70s. Great people and did our trade proud. My wife, Vicki Rugg (Neketin) is also a journeyman wireman and started her apprenticeship in 1975 on the Alaska pipeline. I met her in 1979 at Hanford working the nukes. What a great lady/wireman and tough as nails.

She served on the executive board and negotiating committee for Local 413. She has gone through the same things as Jeri and somehow was able to do her job and represent the IBEW with pride. She is now retired and enjoying life in Arroyo Grande, Calif. I would work beside her anytime (and have).

*Michael Rugg, Local 413 retiree  
Arroyo Grande, Calif.*

### Labor's Candidate?

I have been a member of the IBEW for over 40 years and for the life of me, I can't remember ANY Republican that has come out in favor of organized labor. If I have missed one, please inform me as to who it was. Throughout the years, I have had to travel with my family in order to make a decent income to share with and educate them. I have been able to afford the luxury of seeing to it that all of my six kids received a decent education and a household where their mother was able to stay at home and aid them in their education and upbringing. This could not have been accomplished if we depended on the Republican Party to be of value to us. No matter who the Democratic Party candidate is, that person will be of value to organized labor, it's a proven fact!

All union workers and those that are unfortunate to not be working under a union agreement should be voting Democratic across the board this November. Your employment future and the status of your family life is in your hands.

*George A. Laiacona Jr., Local 728 retiree  
Galveston Island, Texas*

### Getting Rid of Unions the Easy Way

I'm a lineman originally from Boston Local 104, and I retired in 2007 after 25 years as a member of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Local 759 in Florida.

I read my monthly Electrical Worker newspaper and felt the need to send my personal views of right-to-work laws. I give my permission to reprint the following letter printed in the Sun Sentinel newspaper:

Florida's right-to-work law is nothing to be proud of.

Workers in Florida are not required to join a union. Unions that have fought for health and welfare benefits, safe work environment, opportunities for job training and fair wages.

The Sun Sentinel often writes that women do not make the same money as men. In the 35 years I was a union lineman, my sisters in the union made the exact same wage, and there was no difference in opportunities for advancement. A lineman and a line-woman were equal, and for that I am proud.

The only people benefiting from a right-to-work state are the few who refuse to pay their fair share for union dues, the cost to support the advancement in human rights. Shame on them, knowing they will receive the same benefits as the hard working union men and women.

Employers want to get rid of unions. It costs them money to provide a safe work place, provide for health and welfare benefits and pay a fair wage to the best workforce in America.

Living in a right-to-work state? Nothing I'm proud of.

*Joe Boudreau, Local 759 retiree  
Pompano Beach, Fla.*

## WHO WE ARE

If you have a story to tell about your IBEW experience, please send it to [media@ibew.org](mailto:media@ibew.org).

# In St. Louis, A Monument Comes to Life

**O**n Sept. 15, the Henry Miller Museum in St. Louis opens its doors for the first time, welcoming IBEW brothers and sisters from across the U.S. and Canada.

The grand opening, timed to coincide with the union's 125th anniversary and 39th International Convention, marks the most significant milestone yet in a journey that began with the stunning realization nearly a decade ago that the address on the IBEW's first constitution was an abandoned brick building sitting rotting and forgotten on an overgrown city block that had seen better times.

And while the museum will long stand to honor the Brotherhood's 10 founding fathers and the union they created, the fact that such a museum exists at all is a tribute to the hard work of a handful of IBEW leaders who had the vision to turn that simple address on a piece of paper into reality.

"When we first saw this place, we knew in our heart we had to save it," St. Louis Local 1 Business Manager Frank Jacobs said of the boardinghouse where the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was founded in November 1891. Jacobs, along with Local 1 Treasurer Dave Roth and Recording Secretary John Kahrhoff, first seriously considered buying and restoring the historic building during a summer 2014 meeting to discuss the upcoming IBEW convention.

"We wanted to do something special as the hosts of this convention," said Jacobs, who had known about the building since the International Office discovered its address back in 2007. "We didn't know how we'd do it or how we'd pay for it, but once this group of us sat down and started thinking about buying the place, it started to get real."

In the months to follow, the group researched the ownership of the house and surrounding properties, and began to figure out how they could make the idea work.

Within the year — and with generous donations from 11 other locals from around the country — Local 1 completed the purchase of the boardinghouse at 2728 Martin Luther King Ave. (formerly Franklin Ave.). Extra research and effort from Local 1 Director of Government Affairs Tim Green secured the land on either side of the building for parking lots and the Founders Park plaza, where lineman statues representing the 10 founding fathers will sit atop utility poles.



*Dale Roth, left, and brother Dave Roth, right, with their retired IBEW wireman father, Alvin, 87, are two of the small inner circle who helped make the Henry Miller Museum a reality.*

"A lot of work went into getting us to that point," Kahrhoff said, looking back, "but I don't think any of us realized just how much of a passion project this would be." The treacherous task of venturing inside the run-down building fell to Roth, who volunteered to inspect the second story, which had been boarded up since the 1950s.

"That was probably the most gratifying part of this whole project to me, to be able to get in there and to stand on the floor where Henry Miller and those 10 founding fathers stood ... it was breathtaking," Roth said.

Next, Jacobs approached International President Lonnie R. Stephenson about the project, and, with him and International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore "Sam" Chilia, the group formed the Electrical Workers Historical Society to fundraise and guide the effort.

"I really don't know where we would have been without the support of President Stephenson and Secretary-Treasurer Chilia," Jacobs said. "We've done so much of the nuts and bolts of the work here, but their support has been what has made all of this possible."

When time finally came to break ground, there was really only one choice for general contractor, according to Jacobs. Roth's older brother, Dale, a 37-year Local 1 wireman at Sachs Electric, was hired as superintendent to run the jobsite. "Dale became a part of our little team, and he's done such a phenomenal job," Kahrhoff said.

Work started on Oct. 17, 2015, and just 11 months later, it's a whole new building. "We surgically demolished everything inside the four original walls," said Dale Roth, who considers the project the capstone on his career. "We saved the

floor from Henry Miller's bedroom, and everything else that was salvageable — but this is a new, modern building inside that original shell."

Dozens of IBEW members from Local 1 and St. Louis Local 1439 worked on the house, and other trades, from bricklayers and laborers to operating engineers and plumbers were on site throughout. "We took special care to make sure all of the work was done 100 percent union and that every piece we could source was union-built in America," Roth said.

"Through all of it, we've really leaned on one another to drive this thing forward," Jacobs said. "Dave has been to every construction meeting,

and John has done so much legwork sourcing materials and learning about the history of this building and this union. I just can't say enough about this group, and they've done it all while keeping up their day jobs.

"Whatever it took to get the job done, these guys have been there every step of the way," Jacobs said.

Now, with work nearly completed, the foursome are taking some time to reflect on the enormity of the challenge they undertook.

"To have been able to do this for our entire Brotherhood, for the millions of men and women who have ever been a part of the IBEW," Kahrhoff said, "is just the most gratifying feeling in the world. I don't know how many thousands of hours we've put into this, but seeing it nearly finished, it's been worth every second."

"I just can't wait to share this with members from all over North America," Jacobs said. "So many brothers and sisters have donated to this effort, and we hope they and others will come and visit and learn about their union's history standing in the room where it all began.

"And I hope when other IBEW members see the museum, it inspires them to donate and be a part of the revitalization of our history. If it doesn't give you chills when you walk in there," Jacobs said, "there's something wrong with you."

*Visit [nbew-ibewmuseum.org](http://nbew-ibewmuseum.org) to learn more about the museum. Also, visit the 'Donate' tab to contribute to the effort. Commemorative gifts are available at dozens of sponsorship levels, including bricks and pavers engraved with your name or your local's name in Founders Park. ■*

## IBEW MEDIA WORLD

In addition to your monthly issue of The Electrical Worker, check out the wealth of IBEW-related information in cyberspace.

### www.ibew.org

Our Web site has news and info not available anywhere else. Visit us to connect with the IBEW on Facebook and Twitter.

And read *The Electrical Worker* online!

### YouTube

The house where the IBEW was founded back in 1891 is being renovated by locals from St. Louis and funded by IBEW members from across the U.S. and Canada. Opening in September, the Henry Miller Museum will house artifacts and include a replica gin mill. See the renovations in progress at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdECnHwKtE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdECnHwKtE)

### Vimeo

IBEW sisters from across the United States and Canada met this summer to share stories and learn new skills to empower women members and forge the leaders of tomorrow. See their story <https://vimeo.com/172061300>.



### HourPower

Take a ride with IBEW Hour Power on the annual IBEW Motorcycle Ride through Williamsport, Pa., as members raise money for diabetes research. Watch at [IBEWHourPower.com](http://IBEWHourPower.com).



### ElectricTV

The NECA/IBEW team was on the job to replace the Tempe Town Lake Dam in Tempe, Ariz. The hydraulic steel dam will prevent flooding and provide clean water to the region. See their work at [ElectricTV.net](http://ElectricTV.net).



*The nuclear industry has launched an initiative to improve the nation's plants and get nuclear recognized as a necessary and clean energy source.*



# Clean and Green, Nuclear Gets a Makeover

**W**hen most people think of clean energy they probably think of wind and solar. What doesn't come to mind is the source that supplies the United States with 63 percent of its clean energy. What they aren't thinking about is nuclear.

But nuclear energy, which also provides U.S. consumers and businesses with 20 percent of their electricity, is in need of a lift. In an effort to provide one, the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry group, has embarked upon a two-year initiative, Delivering the Nuclear Promise. The plan aims to promote nuclear as a valued and necessary clean energy source, as well as reduce costs and increase safety and efficiency. And the IBEW is joining the effort.

"We used to have a 25-page procedure for changing a doorknob at nuclear plants. There is certainly room to make improvements in efficiency, and we support actions to keep plants open and make them more profitable," said Utility Director Jim Hunter. "We just want to make sure it happens with input from our members and not at their expense."

Rolled out in December, the initiative calls for a 30-percent reduction in costs, which will be determined by working groups where IBEW and other unions will have a presence.

"Nobody wins when a plant closes," said NEI Senior Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer Tony Pietrangelo. "We want everyone pulling in the same direction."

Nuclear generation is facing its most challenging moment since the rise of the industry nearly 50 years ago. Aging plants, Environmental Protection Agency rules, market forces and deregulation are converging to put nuclear plants out of business — just at the moment the electrical grid needs them the most.

It's not just onerous paperwork to fix doorknobs. The nuclear industry is layered with unnecessary bureaucracy. Changing procedures to streamline workflow will certainly help.

Industry deregulation dating back to the late 1990s, which essentially ties utility prices to the wholesale energy market, was supposed to create more competition and lower costs, but has hurt nuclear production in recent years.

A deregulated system also means utility companies are under no obligation to deliver reliable electricity. Their only responsibility is to their shareholders.

Additionally, renewables like wind and solar don't play by the same rules as other forms of electricity generation. Renewables receive production tax breaks and grid priority. Nuclear plants, a baseload energy source, are built for long-term stability and reliability and to operate at full capacity — which they do better than any other source, at more than 90 percent capacity.

This is true even in extreme weather conditions. When other energy sources were freezing up during the polar vortex of 2014, nuclear maintained an operating capacity of 95 percent.

"Wind and solar are great sources of clean energy but they can't replace nuclear," Hunter said. "You need a baseload energy that can be counted on, regardless of whether the wind is blowing or the sun is shining."

Clean air rules, court rulings and the Clean Power Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants by 2030, along with cheap gas prices, have put 100,000 megawatts of energy from coal plants out of business since 2010, Hunter said.

Coal, another baseload energy source, accounts for about 33 percent of U.S. electricity annually, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. And it's losing ground to

natural gas, a trend that started in 2007. Additionally, closings of these plants could double as a result of EPA rules, reported The Hill, a publication focused on Capitol Hill.

Hydraulic fracturing — fracking — has made natural gas-produced electricity cheaper, but gas comes with a high carbon price. And gas prices have started to rise, Hunter said.

Even with increasing capacity and new sources of generation, wind, solar and hydro still only produce about 12 percent of the nation's energy mix. Nuclear produces no greenhouse gases and is cheap to produce, making it the most cost-effective way to reduce carbon emissions.

Yet low demand and rock bottom wholesale energy prices from markets flooded with cheap natural gas, in addition to the aging infrastructure of nuclear plants, have made it nearly impossible to compete. About 15-20 plants are considered at risk of closing because of economic conditions, reported Utility Dive, an energy publication. The most recent casualty is Diablo Canyon — also IBEW-represented — in California, which announced in June that it will close in 2025.

Not surprisingly, in states where nuclear plants have closed, like Vermont and California, greenhouse gas emissions have increased. Natural gas comes with about half the carbon footprint of coal, Hunter said. For states trying to meet their Clean Power Plan goals, removing nuclear from the mix is effectively moving in the wrong direction.

"You can't reduce carbon emissions with gas, and you can't meet your CPP goals without nuclear," Hunter said.

Even some environmentalists are changing their tune. Former NASA climate scientist James Hansen has called for a greater focus on nuclear as a way to combat climate change, reported Scientific American.

Michael Shellenberger, president of Environmental Progress, an environmental research and policy organization, said that because nuclear can produce so much energy, it can be even more environmentally friendly than renewables once the mining, development and other land issues are factored in, reported the New York Times.

Various legislative fixes have been floated at the state level, with mixed results. In Illinois, the legislature considered subsidies to keep two plants operating, but the proposals never got a vote, reported the New York Times.

New York recently introduced clean energy subsidies for nuclear power, putting the clean energy source on par with renewables. The decision will effectively save the state's three upstate plants, most notably the James A. FitzPatrick facility, reported Oswego News, a local publication.

Wisconsin recently lifted its moratorium on building nuclear facilities. And in Tennessee, Watts Bar Unit 2 came online June 3, the first nuclear plant to do so since 1996. The new reactor will supply 1,150 megawatts of generating capacity. Two additional plants, one in Georgia and one in South Carolina, are also slated to come online in the next 10 years.

The Department of Energy convened a nuclear summit in May and is investing in research and development for new technologies.

"The importance of incentivizing continued [nuclear plant] operation is very clear," said Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz in Utility Dive. But, "the solutions are less clear."

In a regulated market, the utility has an obligation to serve the public, but with a deregulated market the utility has no such obligation. It is, Hunter said, a recipe for grid instability.

"People will realize the importance of nuclear as a clean energy, baseload power source eventually," Hunter said. "But it might not be until the lights go out." ■